

COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

COM(90) 163 final - SYN 268

Brussels, 28 May 1990

Proposal for a
COUNCIL DECISION

adopting a specific research and technological development
programme in the field of Life Sciences and Technologies
for Developing Countries
(1990-1994)

(presented by the Commission)

CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
Proposal for a Council decision adopting a specific research and technological development programme in the field of Life Sciences and Technologies for Developing Countries (1990-1994)	2
ANNEX I Scientific and technical objectives and content	11
ANNEX II Indicative distribution of expenditures	15
ANNEX III Rules for implementing the programmes and activities for dissemination and exploitation of the results	16

**Proposal for a
COUNCIL DECISION**

**adopting a specific research and development programme
in the field of Life Sciences and Technologies
for Developing Countries
(1990-94)**

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

**Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Economic
Community, and in particular Article 130q (2) thereof,**

Having regard to the proposal from the Commission,(1)

In cooperation with the European Parliament,(2)

Having regard to the opinion of the Economic and Social Committee,(3)

(1) OJ No C

(2) OJ No C

(3) OJ No C

Whereas by its Decision 90/221/Euratom, EEC⁽⁴⁾, the Council adopted a third framework programme for Community activities in the field of research and technological development (1990-94), specifying inter alia the activities to be pursued in the area of life sciences and technologies for developing countries; whereas this Decision should be taken in the light of the grounds set out in the preamble to that Decision;

Whereas Article 130k of the Treaty stipulates that the framework programme is to be implemented through specific programmes developed within each activity;

Whereas an estimate should be made of the amount of Community financial resources needed to carry out this specific programme; whereas the definitive amounts will be fixed by the budgetary authority in line with the financial perspectives covering the period 1988 - 1992 included in the Interinstitutional Agreement of 29 June 1988⁽⁵⁾ and with any future financial perspectives covering the period 1993 - 1994;

Whereas, pursuant to Article 4 and Annex I of Decision 90/221/Euratom, EEC, the amount deemed necessary for the whole framework programme includes an amount of 57 million ecus for the centralized dissemination and exploitation of results, to be divided up in proportion to the amount envisaged for each activity; whereas in view of the importance of this specific programme within the "Life Sciences and Technologies" action the estimate of the financial resources needed by this programme is to be reduced by 1.11 million ecus, which amount is to be allocated to the centralized activities, in order to comply with the second sentence of Article 130p (2) of the Treaty;

(4) OJ No L 117, 8.5.1990, p.28.

(5) OJ No L 185, 15.7.1988, p.33.

Whereas this programme must be implemented by the Commission; whereas to help accomplish this, the Member States are bound, pursuant to Article 5 of the Treaty, to facilitate the achievement of its tasks where necessary, notably within a committee;

Whereas this programme must be implemented essentially by the selection of research and development projects to enable them to benefit from Community participation; whereas the Commission should encourage the submission of such projects by the usual means of publishing calls for proposals in the Official Journal; whereas a special procedure should also be devised so as to maintain a degree of flexibility enabling the Commission, in the face of the continuous evolution and gradual acceleration of technological progress, also to take into consideration spontaneous proposals consistent with the objectives of the programme;

Whereas the projects to be carried out under the programme must be selected with special attention to the principle of economic and social cohesion in the Community, the transnational nature of the projects and the support to be given to small and medium-sized enterprises;

Whereas it is only in the light of experience gathered in the course of this programme that the Commission will be able to propose and the Council to adopt supplementary programmes by having recourse to the means provided for in Articles 130i, 130m or 130o of the Treaty, if they contribute to the achievement of the programme's objectives, in accordance with the option made available by Article 2(2) of Decision 90/221/Euratom, EEC;

Whereas, in accordance with Article 130g of the Treaty, the Community's activities aimed at strengthening the scientific and technological bases of European industry and encouraging it to become more competitive include promoting cooperation on research and technological development with third countries and international organizations; whereas such cooperation may prove particularly beneficial for the development of this programme;

Whereas it is necessary, as Annex II to Decision 90/221/Euratom, EEC, provides, to increase cooperation between European scientists and those from developing countries in order to facilitate complementarity of research and methods and to improve access to the different networks of scientific relationships established by the Member States with the developing countries in the areas of agriculture and health; whereas this programme should have as its aim to promote development of the research capacity of these countries while encouraging the strengthening of that existing in the Member States; whereas special rules should be drawn up for the dissemination of knowledge resulting from the implementation of this programme;

Whereas the Scientific and Technical Research Committee (CREST) has been consulted,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

A specific research and technological development programme for the European Economic Community in the field of life sciences and technologies for developing countries, as defined in Annex I, is hereby adopted for a period of five years as from 1 January 1990.

Article 2

1. The Community funds estimated as necessary for the execution of the programme under this Decision amount to 111 million ecus. Of this amount 1.11 million ecus is drawn for the centralized dissemination and exploitation of results. The amount thus reduced to 109.89 million ecus includes staff costs which may not exceed 5%. An indicative breakdown of expenditure is set out in Annex II.
2. Should the Council take a decision in implementation of Article 1(4) of Decision 90/221/Euratom, EEC, this Decision shall be adapted to take account of the abovementioned decision.
3. The budgetary authority shall decide on the appropriations available for each financial year.

Article 3

Rules for the implementation of the programme are set out in Annex III.

Article 4

The rate of the Community financial contribution shall be laid down in accordance with Annex IV to Decision 90/221/Euratom, EEC. For the participants established in the developing countries, a higher rate may be approved in the shared-cost projects.

Article 5

1. During 1992 the Commission shall review the programme and address a report on the results of the review to the Council and the European Parliament, together with proposals for any necessary changes.
2. At the end of the programme the Commission shall assess the results obtained. It shall address a report thereon to the Council and the European Parliament.
3. The reports shall be drawn up having regard to the objectives set out in Annex I to this Decision and in accordance with Article 2(4) of Decision 90/221/Euratom, EEC.

Article 6

1. The Commission shall be responsible for the execution of the programme. It shall be assisted by an advisory committee, hereinafter referred to as "the Committee", composed of representatives of the Member States and chaired by a representative of the Commission.
2. The contracts concluded by the Commission shall govern the rights and obligations of each party, including the procedures for disseminating, protecting and exploiting the research results, in accordance with the arrangements adopted pursuant to the second paragraph of Article 130k of the Treaty.
3. A work programme for each year shall be drawn up and updated where necessary. It shall set out the detailed objectives and types of projects to be undertaken, and the financial arrangements to be made for them. The Commission shall make calls for proposals for projects on the basis of the annual work programmes.

Article 7

1. In the cases referred to in Article 8(1), the representative of the Commission representative shall submit to the Committee a draft of the measures to be taken. The Committee shall deliver its opinion on this within a time limit which the Chairman may set in accordance with the urgency of the matter, if necessary by holding a vote.
2. The opinion shall be entered in the minutes; in addition, each Member State shall have the right to ask for its position to appear in the minutes.
3. The Commission shall take the fullest account of the opinion delivered by the Committee. It shall inform the Committee of the way in which it has taken account of the opinion.

Article 8

1. The procedure laid down in Article 7 shall apply to:
 - the preparation and updating of the work programmes referred to in Article 6(3);
 - evaluation of the projects referred to in point 2 of Annex III, as well as the estimated amount of the Community's financial contribution when these projects are submitted through the ordinary procedure referred to in point 4 of Annex III and the abovementioned amount is more than 5 million ecus;

- evaluation of all projects submitted through the exceptional procedure referred to in point 4 of Annex III, as well as the estimated amount of the Community's financial contribution;
 - measures for evaluating the programme.
2. The Commission may consult the Committee on any matter falling within the scope of the programme.
3. The Commission shall inform the Committee with regard to;
- the progress of the programme;
 - draft calls for proposals, referred to in Article 6(3);
 - projects, referred to in point 2 of Annex III, submitted through the ordinary procedure, for which the Community contribution is less than 5 million ecus, and the results of their evaluation;
 - accompanying measures, referred to in point 2 of Annex III;
 - concerted actions, referred to in point 2 of Annex III.

Article 9

In implementing this programme, supplementary programmes within the meaning of Article 130i, participation within the meaning of Article 130m and joint undertakings or any other structures within the meaning of Article 130o of the Treaty may also be decided on as the need arises.

Article 10

Where cooperation with third countries and international organisations aiming at achieving the objectives of this programme requires legal undertakings between the Community and the third parties concerned, the Commission shall be authorized to negotiate, in accordance with Article 130n of the Treaty, international agreements laying down the terms of such cooperation.

Decisions on the conclusion of such agreements shall be adopted in accordance with the procedure referred to in Article 130q(2) of the Treaty.

Article 11

This Decision is addressed to the Member States.

Done at,

For the Council,

The President

SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL OBJECTIVES AND CONTENT

•
The orientations of the third framework programme, its scientific and technical objectives, and the motivations which have inspired it, form an integral part of this specific programme.

Paragraph 4D of Annex II of the framework programme is an integral part of this specific programme.

The programme will concentrate on two areas fundamental to the development of the Third World i.e. Agriculture and Medicine, Health and Nutrition. The environmental dimension, both in terms of environmental protection and the rational management of resources, will be taken into account.

On the basis of and in the light of these elements the analytical description of the content of this specific programme is given below.

Area 1. Agriculture

Reduction of food shortages

The aim is to improve farm crop and livestock production for local use in regions where, for climatic, physical or human reasons, problems of food provision are the first priority.

The research will cover: the operation and dynamics of production systems with a view to determining the constraints on viable and sustainable development; improving the production of food plants, including those which, though of secondary importance at international level, are vital locally, by, in particular, improving their hardiness and protection and the techniques for growing, preserving and processing them; developing livestock farming and fisheries by effective production systems adapted to local conditions, by better use of local freshwater and coastal fishing resources and by aquaculture; and restoring fragile environments in order to allow appropriate agricultural activity there, particularly by means of reforestation of degraded areas, the association of trees, crop production and livestock (agroforestry), the regeneration of pastureland, better water management, etc.

Agricultural production of high economic value

The aim is to provide a scientific and technical basis for agricultural activities (including the utilisation of the forest and the aquatic environment) that are of high economic value at the local level and for exportation in regions where there is no substantial food shortage.

The specific objectives are, on the quantitative side: to improve plants or animal breeds, to reduce pre- and post-harvest losses and to improve agricultural and silvicultural techniques and that of production systems management; and, on the qualitative side: to enable products to comply with more and more stringent international trade standards, to improve their market acceptability both by socioeconomic studies of the impact of the intended improvements and by reducing disease or damage due to harvesting, transport, packaging, etc., and to make possible the processing of farm produce on site so as to increase its added value.

The research will cover: the main traditional export crops; the secondary crops giving a product of high economic value which could possibly replace crops from which narcotics are extracted; certain food products commanding a high price on urban markets or for export to neighbouring countries; the regeneration and management of forest resources by silvicultural improvements, and the well-planned utilisation of forest products and by-products (resins, gums, colourants, fibres, pharmaceutical substances); and bioenergy production.

Area 2. Medicine, health and Nutrition

Prevention and treatment of the predominant diseases in the developing countries

The aim is to reduce the impact of the transmissible diseases which continue to be the major public health problem in most of the developing countries.

Research will focus on: perfecting new methods of diagnosis, using the most advanced techniques of molecular biology and immunology; developing new medicines with the help of innovative strategies for identifying biochemical targets for chemotherapy; preventing infectious diseases not only by developing vaccines but also by adapting existing vaccines to the specific needs of the developing countries. In the field of parasitology, the emphasis will be on a multi-antigenic approach taking into account, in certain cases, the different stages in the biological cycle of the parasite; the biology of the vector and its control by combining the traditional methods with the new ones of molecular biology and genetics; haemoglobinoses, diarrhoea and the sexually transmitted diseases, including AIDS, taking into account the socioeconomic context of the developing countries.

Health care systems appropriate to the rural or urban environment of the developing countries

The objective is to study ways of organizing health care taking into account the specific constraints and the socioeconomic context of the developing countries (financial, human and material resources) and the new opportunities offered by the results of biomedical research.

This research comprises a number of themes, such as the selection, evaluation and validation of health strategies, the management and financing of health services, the study of the optimum development of human resources, the prerequisites for the transfer of existing and new technologies, and the elucidation of the factors determining the participation of the population.

Nutrition

The aim of this research is to develop the scientific basis necessary for improving the nutritional condition of underprivileged populations by means of a multidisciplinary approach between medicine, agronomy, economics and the social sciences. This embraces research on nutritional interventions, specific shortages, and protection mechanisms in the event of food shortage at the individual, family and community levels.

INDICATIVE DISTRIBUTION OF EXPENDITURES

in % for the period 1990-1994

Area 1.	Agriculture	63 - 69
Area 2.	Medicine, Health and Nutrition	31 - 37

The breakdown between different areas does not exclude the possibility that projects could cover several areas.

Annex III

Rules for Implementing the Programme

and Activities for Dissemination and Exploitation of the Results

1. The Commission shall implement the programme on the basis of the scientific and technical content described in Annex I. This programme concerns all developing countries.
2. The rules for implementing the programme, referred to in Article 3, comprise research and technological development projects, accompanying measures and concerted actions.

The projects shall be the subject of shared-cost research and technological development contracts.

The accompanying measures consist of applying the means to ensure proper technical execution, management and evaluation of the programme, as well as adequate dissemination and accessibility of the results, and coordination, training and consciousness-raising of the participants in the programme.

The concerted actions are those defined in the Financial Regulation.

3. The participants in the projects must be natural or legal persons established either in the Community or in developing countries such as universities, research organizations and industrial firms, including small and medium-sized enterprises, or associations thereof, in particular European Economic Interest Groupings (EEIGs).

Natural or legal persons established in countries other than developing countries which have concluded agreements with the Community foreseeing scientific and technical research, may, based on the criterion of mutual advantage, take part in the projects undertaken in the context of this programme. The contracting parties under such arrangements shall not benefit from Community funding. They shall contribute to the general administrative costs.

4. The choice of projects shall be carried out according to the following order of priority, the first method being the rule, the second the exception:

The participants in the projects shall be selected on the basis of the ordinary procedure of calls for proposals referred to in Article 6 (3) and published in the Official Journal of the European Communities.

The Commission may also accept proposals according to an exceptional procedure and under the conditions mentioned below, when they make a particularly promising and significant contribution as regards the originality of the theme proposed, the novelty of the scientific and technical approach and the methodology of execution, also taking into account the particular nature of the proposers.

A favourable technical evaluation of such proposals shall not by itself be a sufficient justification for accepting a project; this exceptional procedure may only apply after verification that the nature of the project, as defined above, does not justify the use of the normal procedure for calls for proposals.

The exceptional procedure must be completed before the ordinary procedure in such a way that the available amount for the Community's financial participation in projects retained by the ordinary procedure can be determined precisely. The closing date for the exceptional procedure shall be published each year in the Official Journal.

The amount of the financial participation of the Community for all the projects retained by the exceptional procedure will be decided each year, in relation to the projects selected according to particularly strict criteria of excellence. In any case, this amount may not exceed 15%; it may be revised each year in the light of experience.

The Commission shall draw up a *vade mecum* setting out all the rules applicable to this exceptional procedure in order to guarantee full transparency.

5. The projects must provide for participation by at least two mutually independent partners established in different Member States, as well as at least one partner established in a developing country.
6. The Commission may encourage the participants to form a European Economic Interest Grouping (EEIG) or make other arrangements for carrying out projects, such as those on a large scale, permitting decentralized management adapted to the specific requirements of the project.
7. The knowledge acquired during the course of the projects shall be disseminated on the one hand within the specific programme and on the other hand by means of a centralized activity, pursuant to the decision referred to in the third paragraph of Article 4 in Decision 90/221/Euratom, EEC.

↑ This dissemination and exploitation will be characterized by the results obtained being placed directly and systematically at the disposal of all the developing countries.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

1. BUDGET HEADING AND TITLE

Subsection 6, Item B 6224

Specific programme of Community RDT activities in the field of Life Sciences and Technologies for Developing Countries (STD) 1990-1994.

2. LEGAL BASE

Article 130 Q(2) of the Treaty.

3. OBJECTIVES AND DESCRIPTION

See Annex I of the proposal.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Amounts deemed necessary in MIO ECU:

Programme implementation	109,89
Centralized action for dissemination and exploitation	1,11
Total	111,00

The indicative internal breakdown of the 109.89 MIO ECU for programme implementation is given in Annex II of the proposal.

Indicative multiannual schedules (in MIO ECU)

	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994 ¹	Total
Commitments	.	32.00	32.35	23.00	22.54	109.89
Payments	.	5.00	22.74	26.00	56.15	109.89

The definitive yearly amounts will be determined by the budgetary authority in accordance with the financial perspectives for the period 1990-1992 (annexed to the Interinstitutional Agreement of 29 June 1984) and with subsequent financial perspectives which may be adopted for 1993 and 1994.

5. STAFF AND ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENDITURE

In addition to the principal means of action which are contracts (annex III), the above amounts include programme-related staff and administrative expenditure estimated at no more than 8 MIO ECU.

The expenditure on staff will not exceed 5% of the amount deemed necessary for the programme implementation. This implies a maximum of 20 statutory posts (A, B and/or C) at any given time during the life of the programme. The infrastructure costs related to statutory staff will be borne by Part A of the budget.

6. IMPLICATIONS FOR REVENUE

The contributions by third country contractors towards the cost of administration of the programme will be reused pursuant to articles 27.2 and 96 of the Financial Regulations².

¹ for the payment appropriations: 1994 and beyond

² Financial Regulation of 21 December 1977, as last amended by Regulation 610/90 of March 1990

7. TYPES OF CONTROL

Control will be exercised by:

- the Programme Management Committee (scientific control);
- the services of the DG responsible for the execution of the programme, possibly assisted by independent experts;
- the Commission's Financial Controller.

In accordance with Article 2 of the Financial Regulation the use of appropriations will be subject to analyses of cost-effectiveness and the realization of quantified objectives will be monitored.

External audit may be carried out by the Court of Auditors in accordance with the Treaty.

STATEMENT ON IMPACT ON COMPETITIVENESS AND EMPLOYMENT

1. The main reason for introducing the measure

The objective of this programme is to increase cooperation in the fields of tropical agriculture (including fisheries and forestry), medicine, health and nutrition between European scientists and scientists from developing countries. It enables developing countries to benefit from the scientific knowledge and technological developments available in the Community and encourages the strengthening of research capacity in both the Third World and in the Member States of the Community. Businesses of any size will thus have the opportunity to benefit by developing any matters of their own choice which arise from such Community research activities.

2. Features of the businesses in question

No special features are required; the businesses can be of any size or description relevant to and appropriate for developments derived from the preceding research activities.

3. Obligations imposed directly on businesses

The same obligations are imposed on all institutions participating in the programme including: conformity of the proposed research with the technical annex of the project, transnational cooperation, free site-access to Commission agents, participation in seminars and meetings of contractors organized by the Commission, and annual reports of activities and results.

In the field of tropical and subtropical agriculture, the main focus is on new approaches to the reduction of food shortages in developing countries by the improvement of plant production, the development of livestock systems and fish, the research on production systems, looking for solutions of a sustainable nature safeguarding and restoring the environment, as well as the development of agricultural products with high economic value in regions where food shortages are not so severe. In the field of medical research, the main focus is on the development of new control strategies to effectively contain the major diseases prevailing in the developing countries. Emphasis will be on the development of new simple affordable diagnostics and vaccines as well as on non toxic readily available drugs. Operational research dealing with the development of Health Care Systems adapted to the rural and urban environment of developing countries will receive considerable attention. Nutritional intervention research will focus on the interface between medicine, agronomy, economy and social sciences. The increasing environmental problems will receive particular attention in the formulation of disease control strategies.

4. Indirect obligations likely to be imposed on business by national, regional or local authorities

No such obligations are foreseen following the implementation of this Council Decision.

5. Special provisions in respect of SMEs

No, as mentioned earlier

6. Likely effects on:

a) The competitiveness of business

As the programme is aimed at research not leading directly to new commercial products or processes, there will be no immediate effect on the competitiveness of business.

b) On employment

The effects on employment of the programme (in as much as these can be measured) are and will continue to be of an indirect and positive nature in the immediate term.

7. Consultation of representative organizations

The Advisory Committee for Programme Management and Coordination (CGC) No. 8 - Development-linked Research has been consulted during the preparation