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COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

COM(78) 301 final.

Brussels, 30 June 1978

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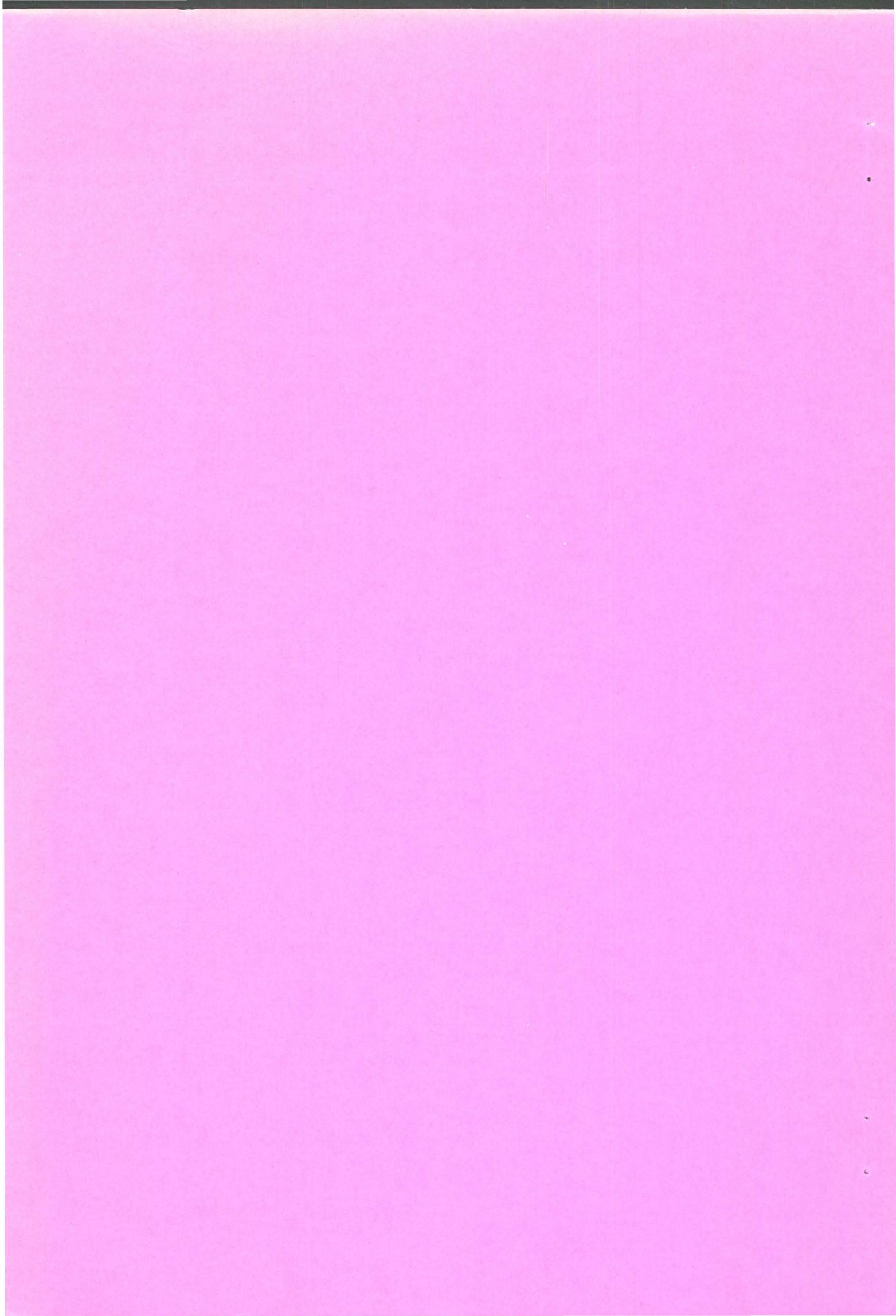
Proposal for a

COUNCIL DECISION

adopting joint research programmes and programmes for
coordinating agricultural research

(submitted to the Council by the Commission)

COM(78) 301 final.



EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

1. Article 5 of Regulation (EEC) No 1728/74 on the coordination of agricultural research provides that specific measures may take the form of joint projects or of coordination of activities and that these measures should relate to given research topics or areas.

The Council Decision of 22 July 1975 had provided for the implementation of four specific measures concerning respectively :

- animal leucoses
- effluents from intensive stockrearing
- beef production
- the production of vegetable proteins

These specific measures, concerning which the Commission has submitted an interim report to the Council and the Parliament will terminate on 31 December 1978.

2. The Commission is submitting to the Council the attached programme of specific measures to be carried out over the five-year period commencing on 1 January 1979.

In working out the attached five-year programme the Commission has taken the following as a basis :

- new research requirements, resulting both from the development of the common agricultural policy and from the prospects for Community agriculture
- experience gained with Community coordination of agricultural research during the initial stage, from which the lessons will have to be drawn for the period proper commencing in 1979
- exchanges of views which it has had with the Standing Committee on Agricultural Research, whose members are responsible for the programming of agricultural research in their respective Member States, regarding the aims and trends of agricultural research in the Member States.

3. The common agricultural policy is faced with the complex, urgent and vital problem of how to improve the income of farmers in all regions, but it is having to solve this problem in difficult economic circumstances, while all the time avoiding any further aggravation of the present market situation and while taking account of the forthcoming enlargement of the Community. In many regions the unfavourable structures within which farms operate must be improved. Farmers must realise that they have a chance to improve their productivity by rationalising their holding and by cutting back their production costs.

Apart from the removal of such obstacles to intra-Community trade as

inspections for animal and plant diseases, the forthcoming five-year research coordination programme should give priority to the socio-structural problems and to the most efficient use of natural resources and energy, due account being taken of the outlets available for production and special emphasis being laid on the problems of the least-favoured regions, especially the Mediterranean regions.

4. The trial period which is now coming to a close has shown the Commission :

- that coordination cannot be achieved and made truly operational within less than five years;
- that coordination should be more flexible in nature; its purpose can be achieved more comprehensively and more economically if, during the programme, the emphasis can be shifted from certain aspects or measures to others, with the active participation of the Standing Committee on Agricultural Research acting as a "Management Committee";
- that the objective of coordination can be attained by reducing the number of projects jointly financed under each specific measure and by increasing the number and intensity of the coordinated activities. This approach has two advantages : the institutes and centres taking part are better prepared to continue their research once Community coordination, which can only be temporary, has ceased and the budgetary costs of the specific measures can be kept down. On the other hand, a heavier burden has to be borne by the Commission, which has to coordinate numerous institutes and research workers on a wider scale and more intensively.

5. In view of these considerations, the Commission is proposing to the Council that a coordination programme be adopted covering the period 1979-1983 and comprising the following measures :

- i land use and rural development
- ii Mediterranean agriculture
- iii agricultural waste and effluents from intensive stockrearing
- iv animal pathology
- v improving the productivity of European beef herds
- vi biological and integrated pest control
- vii methods of improving plant resistance to disease and environmental pressures
- viii Agro-food research
- ix elm disease: this is a pilot scheme for coordinating research into tree diseases
- x improvements in the production of plant proteins.

6. These ten specific programmes are in line with the following four objectives of the common agricultural policy :
 - a. socio-structural objectives, (1, 2, 3)
 - b. removal of obstacles to intra-Community agricultural markets (4)
 - c. efficiency of production (5, 6, 7, 8, 9)
 - d. alternative products (in particular, the improvement of fodder production) (10).

7. Annex I sets out, in respect of each specific measure, the main lines on which the coordination of research will be based. The Commission drew up these guidelines at the end of 1977, following an exchange of views with the Standing Committee on Agricultural Research. They will, however, be defined in a more precise and detailed manner before the end of 1978 after another exchange of views with the Committee, assisted by groups of experts set up for this purpose.

8. The current programme of work requires expenditure of some 3.5 million EUA per year. For the 1979-1983 five-year programme, the total estimates amount to 18 602 000 EUA, i.e. a yearly average of 3.7 million EUA. Thus, since the number of measures to be undertaken has more than doubled and since research costs are steadily increasing, the Commission is keeping within previous financial limits. This will mean very careful selection of the research projects for which Community financing will be made available under each programme.

Annex II sets out the detailed estimates by year and by measure.

9. Annex III gives precise figures for the staff numbers necessary to put this proposal into practice.

10. It is proposed that the Council adopt, in accordance with Article 5 of Regulation (EEC) No 1728/74 of 27 June 1974, the attached Decision concerning "joint research programmes and programmes for coordinating agricultural research".

PROPOSAL FOR A
COUNCIL DECISION

adopting joint research programmes and programmes for coordinating agricultural research.

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community, and in particular Article 43 thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the Commission¹,

Having regard to the Opinion of the European Parliament²,

Whereas Council Regulation (EEC) No 1728/74 of 27 June 1974 on the coordination of agricultural research (3) provides for coordination at Community level of national agricultural research projects, in order to contribute towards attaining the objectives of the common agricultural policy;

Whereas Article 5 of the above Regulation provides that the Council is to decide upon specific measures for the coordination of research activities so as to allow rational organization of means employed, efficient use of results and the orientation of such work towards the aims of the common agricultural policy, as well as the implementation of joint projects designed to second or supplement work undertaken in the Member States in fields which are of particular importance to the Community;

Whereas numerous regions of the Community are lagging behind in development and there are serious problems, particularly in the Mediterranean regions and certain less favoured areas within the meaning of Council Directive 75/268/EEC of 28 April 1975 (4), whereas measures must be taken in respect of these less-favoured areas so as to enable better use to be made of the human potential and to encourage a general mobilization of all means likely to increase the return from the land, having regard in particular to its capacity for crop and livestock production and the possibility of recycling waste from the agricultural and food industries, by defining crop-growing and livestock-rearing methods appropriate to the region; whereas the prospect of enlargement of the Community makes it more urgent to find solutions to these problems; whereas these measures will contribute in their specific ways to re-establishing natural balance guaranteeing harmony between individuals and their environment;

Whereas progress in research on the combating of diseases will help to eliminate major obstacles to the harmonization of laws and to trade, both within the Community and with non-member countries, in animals and livestock products; whereas the lack of a standard Community method for diagnosing bovine leucosis constitutes an obstacle to the movement of breeding cattle; whereas, the existence in areas bordering on the Community of permanent centres of African swine fever continually menaces Community pig farms; whereas measures to achieve a standard method for the diagnosis of bovine

(1) OJ No C

(2) OJ No C

(3) OJ No L 182 5.7.1974, p.1

(4) OJ No

leucosis and the control of swine fever outside the territory of the Community therefore appear necessary; whereas attempts should also be made to ensure the systematic elimination of losses among young cattle by developing methods of controlling perinatal pathology;

Whereas there is serious economic wastage in livestock, crop and food production, due to management methods which have upset the physiological, pathological and ecological balance;

Whereas, while a number of products are in surplus in the Community, there is also a growing protein deficit leading to an increase in expensive imports; whereas fodder and cereals are under-utilized as a viable source of animal feed; whereas production of surplus products could be replaced by the production of protein-bearers; whereas encouraging the production of fodder, protein-bearing plants, oil-bearing plants and long-strawed cereals implies increasing protein yield per unit of existing or potential Community crops,

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1

1. The joint research programmes and the programmes to coordinate research concerning socio-structural objectives, the removal of obstacles to trade on intra-Community agricultural markets, the efficiency of production and alternative products (improvement of fodder production), as specified in Annex I are hereby adopted.
2. The programmes shall run for five years from 1 January 1979.
3. The amounts needed to finance them shall be entered each year in the general budget of the Communities.

Article 2

Detailed rules for the application of this Decision, concerning in particular the scientific priorities to be observed in common programmes, the criteria for selecting the research centres and institutes invited to collaborate in implementing the specific measures and the Guidance of programme while they are being carried out, shall be adopted in accordance with the procedure laid down in Article 8 of Regulation (EEC) No 1728/74

Article 3

The Commission shall ensure the implementation of the coordination programmes by organizing seminars, conferences, study visits, exchanges of research workers and scientific working meetings and by collecting, analysing and publishing the results.

Article 4

On 1 July 1981 and, after conclusion of the programmes, not later than 31 July 1984 the Commission shall report to the European Parliament and the Council on the results of the activities carried out under the programmes covered by this Decision and on the use of the funds allocated for these measures.

Done at Brussels,

For the Council

The President

ANNEX I

SPECIFIC MEASURES

A. SOCIO-STRUCTURAL OBJECTIVES

1. Programme for the appropriate use of land and rural development

- research into the appropriate use of land (agriculture, forestry, pasture)
- special problems of less-favoured regions
 - forest-pasture systems, balance between forest and pasture having regard to the opportunities for extensive stock rearing, re-establishing wild life and checking fires
- assessment of techniques for the management of land and water resources
- measures to protect and maintain land and water resources
- regional development and redevelopment plans
- the relationship between individual and his environment.

2. Mediterranean agriculture programme

- new ways to make the most of agricultural resources in short supply
- systematic search for production alternatives so as to develop agriculture and encourage change to new varieties and types of farming in Mediterranean areas
 - improving the productivity of existing crops (including permanent pasture)

3. Programme on agricultural waste and the effluent of intensive stock rearing

- improvement of crops after the spreading of semi-liquid and solid manure and study of the long-term effects on the environment: completion and extension of the mathematical model and associated research so as to achieve optimum monitoring of the natural regenerative capacity of soils (particularly long-term effects and trace elements)
- technological problems posed by spreading semi-liquid manure and its influence on the environment (atmosphere, soil, water)
- identification and control of odours produced by spreading semi-liquid manure and stabling animals

B. REMOVAL OF BARRIERS ON THE INTRA-COMMUNITY AGRICULTURAL MARKETS

4. Animal pathology programme

- protection of animals (mainly pigs and cattle) against perinatal diseases, intestinal diseases and respiratory complaints and study of their economic impact on the management of undertakings
- problems posed by the storage, transport and spreading of semi-liquid and solid manure as regards the quality of foodstuffs of vegetable and animal origin : study of their impact on animal and human health (communicable diseases)
- bovine leucosis : establishment of a harmonised system for controlling this disease so that animals and meat may circulate freely on the market
- African swine fever : establishment of a system for controlling and diagnosing African swine fever outside the Community so as to prevent contamination within the Community and to ensure that pigs and pigmeat continue to circulate freely on the market.

C. PRODUCTION EFFICIENCY

5. Programme to improve the productivity of Community beef herds

- interaction between genotype and feeding and management
- optimal use of resources in less-favoured regions
- increasing the rate of reproduction of beef herds
- increasing carcase and meat quality
- effects of stress and rearing conditions on herd productivity

6. Integrated and biological pest control programmes

- studies for a more rational use of pesticides in the light of better knowledge of pest biology
- progressive replacement of chemical pesticides by methods which cause less damage to the environment and consume less energy

7. Programme on ways of improving plant resistance to disease and environmental pressures

- genetic improvement of plant material for long-term resistance to disease
- improved efforts at coordination so as to achieve better use of gene banks

8. Agro-food programme

- search for new outlets for surplus products
- quality aspects of produce

9. Elm disease programme

- pilot effort at coordination on tree disease problems

D. ALTERNATIVE PRODUCTS (IMPROVEMENT OF FODDER PRODUCTION)

10. Programme for improved production of vegetable proteins

- research into improvement of feed and seed legumes
- research into improvement of the main oil-bearing crops
- research into improvement of fodder grasses
- harvesting, treatment and preservation of fodder grasses and legumes.

ANNEX II

BREAKDOWN OF APPROPRIATIONS

in EUA*

Programmes	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	Totals
Socio-structural	1.084.000	1.268.000	2.092.000	2.200.000	2.200.000	8.844.000
Removal of barriers on intra-Community agricultural markets	336.000	335.000	431.000	400.000	400.000	1.902.000
Production efficiency	735.000	1.077.000	1.102.000	1.200.000	1.200.000	5.314.000
Alternative products (upvaluing of fodder crops)	550.000	620.000	372.000	500.000	500.000	2.542.000
Totals	2.705.000	3.300.000	3.997.000	4.300.000	4.300.000	18.602.000

* as at 1 February 1978

ANNEX III

In order to give effect to :

- Council Regulation (EEC) No 1728/74 of 27 June 1974 on the coordination of agricultural research
- Council Decision 75/460/EEC of 22 July 1975 adopting common research programmes and programmes for the coordination of research in the field of animal leucoses, livestock effluents, beef production and plant protein production
- implementing the measures described in this memorandum

it is essential to grant the department responsible the following posts in the budget :

1 A 5/4 post

3 A 7/6 "

1 B 1 post

1 B 5/4 "

It should be realised that the staff of the Division for the Coordination of Agricultural Research has never, since the division was set up, been made adequate for carrying out the measures adopted by the Council in Regulations or Decisions. The measures referred to in this memorandum can be implemented only if the department responsible is provided with the necessary staff.

ARTICLE : 314 AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH

ITEM : 3141 RESEARCH PROGRAMMES

Appropriations requested in EUA

<u>1978</u>	<u>1979</u>
2 890 000	2 705 000

Remarks

Council Regulation No 1728/74 entrusted the Commission with the coordination of agricultural research at Community level. Decision 75/460 accordingly provided for a series of specific common and coordinated programmes to be carried out from 1975 to 1978, and the appropriations for these amounted to 10 300 000 EUA over four years.

Since these programmes are coming to an end, the Commission - with the agreement of the Standing Committee on Agricultural Research - has forwarded a draft regulation to the Council adopting the new programmes to be undertaken between 1979 and 1983.

FINANCIAL MEMORANDUM

1. Relevant budget heading:

Title	3
Chapter	31
Article	314
Item	3141

2. Measure : Agricultural research

Joint and coordinated programmes with the following objectives:

- socio-structural objectives;
- efficiency of production;
- removal of obstacles to intra-community agricultural markets;
- alternative products (improvement of fodder production).

3. Legal basis

- Article 43 of the EEC Treaty
- Council Regulation (EEC) No 1728/74 of 27 June 1974 on the coordination of agricultural research - OJ No L 182/1 of 5 July 1974.

4. Description, aims and grounds:

The Commission is to make a financial contribution towards research carried out jointly with Member States.

The objectives of the research programme 1979-1983 will be:

A. SOCIO-STRUCTURAL OBJECTIVES:

Description

- programme on the appropriate use of land and rural development;
- programme on Mediterranean agriculture;
- programme on agricultural waste and effluents from intensive stock-rearing.

Aims and grounds

A number of specific programmes will back up the implementation of the the Community Directives on mountain and hill farming, less-favoured areas, Mediterranean agriculture, land use, and relations between individuals and the environment:

- to reduce the difference between certain areas in social, economic and structural development;
- to increase the employment rate and thus reduce under-employment and unemployment among the agricultural population;
- to plan and implement measures to reduce the negative economic effects which enlargement could have on the less-favoured regions and the south of the Community;

- to encourage fuller exploitation of fodder resources and their appropriate use by those species of animals reared in intensive units.

B. EFFICIENCY OF PRODUCTION:

Description

- programme for improving the productivity of European beef herds;
- biological pesticide programme - integrated pest-control programme;
- programme on methods to improve plant resistance to disease and environmental pressures;
- foodstuffs programme;
- programme on elm disease.

Aims and grounds

Given the considerable waste caused in animal, crop and food production by methods which have led to physiological, pathological or ecological imbalances, more balanced systems should be evolved to limit the economic risk from new techniques and market cycles; new commercial outlets should be found and new methods should be devised so that edible by-products can be recovered or recycled for agricultural use, thus limiting or reabsorbing certain surpluses and reducing pollution in general.

C. REMOVAL OF OBSTACLES TO INTRA-COMMUNITY AGRICULTURAL MARKETS:

Description:

Animal pathology programme.

Aims and grounds

Research into epizootic diseases is a direct contribution towards improving farm productivity and helps to eliminate major obstacles to the approximation of laws and to intra-Community and extra-Community trade in animals and animal products; the lack of a standard Community method for the diagnosis of bovine leucosis constitutes an obstacle to the movement of breeding cattle; just outside Community territory there are permanent reservoirs of African swine fever which present a constant threat to pig farms in the Community; a standardized method for the diagnosis of bovine leucosis and must therefore be devised and measures adopted for controlling swine fever outside the Community

This will involve a programme on African swine fever so that a control and diagnosis system can be established for African swine fever outside Community territory, thus preventing any intra-Community contamination and ensuring the free movement of pigs and pigmeat.

Biological material (reference test) is also to be supplied under contract so that, in the event of an epidemic, the Member States will have the material needed to make a diagnosis.

A "bovine leucosis" programme will aim to devise a harmonized system for controlling this disease, thus ensuring the free movement of cattle and beef on the market.

D. ALTERNATIVE PRODUCTS (Improvement of fodder production)

Description

Programme to improve the production of vegetable proteins.

Objectives and aims

At Community level there are surpluses of some products but there is also a growing protein deficit; there is also under-utilization of fodder resources and of cereals as a viable source of cattle food; measures are thus required to promote and encourage fodder production and the growing of protein-bearing plants, oil-bearing plants and long-strawed cereal. An important contribution would be made if an increase were achieved in the unit protein yield of existing or potential crops which have been neglected in the Community for economic reasons now no longer valid because of the increase in energy costs; such substitution and rationalization would reduce certain chronic agricultural surpluses and limit the excessive growth of imports which are costly to European agriculture.

This will involve:

- the improvement of fodder and seed legumes, the principal oil-bearing crops, fodder grasses and the treatment and preservation of fodder grasses and legumes.

5. Method of calculation:

On the basis of contractual participation and estimate established from the previous research programmes.

A. "SOCIO-STRUCTURAL"OBJECTIVE

I. "Land use"

1979

7 Seminars	118.000	EUA
6 workshops	70.000	EUA
Exchange of researchers	20.000	EUA
Expert fees	65.000	EUA
2 Scientific advisers	10.000	EUA
Publications	<u>56.000</u>	EUA

339.000 EUA

1980

The same method + 6% 360.000 EUA

1981

a) The same method + 6%	381.000	EUA
b) beginning of commong programmes on contract basis	<u>627.000</u>	EUA

1.008.000 EUA

1.707.000 EUA

II. MEDITERRANEAN AGRICULTURE:

1979

a) Coordinated programme.

3 seminars	100.000	EUA
5 workshops	85.000	EUA
Exchange of researchers	10.000	EUA
Expert fees	30.000	EUA
Publications	40.000	EUA
	<u>265.000</u>	EUA

b) common programme
on contract basis 180.000 EUA

445.000 EUA

1980

a) coordinated programme
the same method + 6% 280.000 EUA

b) common programme
new actions 310.000 EUA

590.000 EUA

1981

a) coordinated programme
the same method + 6% 297.000 EUA

b) common programme 450.000 EUA

747.000 EUA

1.782.000 EUA

III. UTILISATION OF AGRICULTURAL WASTES AND EFFLUENTS:

1979

a) coordinated programme

3 seminars	50.000	EUA
2 workshops	20.000	EUA
Exchanges of researchers	10.000	EUA
Expert fees	10.000	EUA
Publications	10.000	EUA
	<u>100.000</u>	EUA

b) common programme
on contract basis 200.000 EUA

300.000 EUA

1980

the same method (a+b)
+ 6%

318.000 EUA

1981

the same method (a+b)
+ 6%

337.000 EUA

955.000 EUA

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The financial estimates of the different programmes have been established on the basis of the method used in the above example.

The following tables provide the breakdown of appropriations for each programme in the framework of the four objectives.

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A. SOCIO STRUCTURAL OBJECTIVES

	Land Use	Mediterranean Agric.	Wastes + effluents	Total	Total for 5 years
1979	339.000	445.000	300.000	1.084.000	
1980	360.000	390.000	318.000	1.268.000	
1981	1.008.000	747.000	337.000	2.092.000	
	<u>1.707.000</u>	<u>1.782.000</u>	<u>955.000</u>	<u>4.444.000</u>	
1982				2.200.000	
1983				<u>2.200.000</u>	8.844.000

B. REMOVAL OF OBSTACLES TO INTRA-COMMUNITY AGRICULTURAL MARKETS

	Swine Fever	Bovine Leucosis	Animal Pathology	Total	Total for 5 years
1979	63.518	74.482	198.000	6.000	
1980	67.000	59.200	208.800	335.000	
1981	71.000	-	360.000	431.000	
	<u>201.518</u>	<u>153.249</u>	<u>766.100</u>	<u>1.102.000</u>	
1982				400.000	
1983				<u>400.000</u>	1.902.000

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C. EFFICIENCY OF PRODUCTION

in EUA

	Beef Production	Biological control	Plant resist- ance	Agro- food	Elm disease	Total	Total for five years
1979	300.000	185.000	95.000	75.000	80.000	735.000	
1980	318.000	256.000	160.000	248.000	95.000	1.077.000	
1981	248.000	297.000	206.000	261.000	90.000	1.102.000	
	<u>866.000</u>	<u>738.000</u>	<u>461.000</u>	<u>583.976</u>	<u>255.000</u>	<u>2.914.000</u>	
1982						1.200.000	
1983						<u>1.200.000</u>	
							5.314.000

D. ALTERNATIVE PRODUCTS

<u>IMPROVEMENT OF PLANT PROTEIN</u>			<u>Total</u>	<u>Total 5 years</u>
<u>1979</u>	coordinated programme	180.000		
	common programme	<u>370.000</u>	550.000	
<u>1980</u>	coordinated programme	185.000		
	common programme	<u>435.000</u>	620.000	
<u>1981</u>	coordinated programme	196.000		
	common programme	<u>176.000</u>	372.000	
<u>1982</u>			500.000	
<u>1983</u>			<u>500.000</u>	
				2.542.000

6. Controls

The Standing Committee on Agricultural Research forwards regular reports on the coordination of agricultural research to the Parliament and the Council.

This report includes a description of the measures undertaken pursuant to Regulation No 1728/74. Expenditure will be audited by the Standing Committee on Agricultural Research acting as a Management Committee.

The EEC's share of the expenditure on the implementation of the programme will be controlled by Commission departments (Financial Control)

