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RECOMMENDATION

by the Committee on Energy, Research and Technology

on the COMMON POSITION adopted by the Council with a view to the adoption of a decision adopting a specific programme concerning the preparation of the development of an operational EUROTRA system
(C3-0256/90 - SYN 228)

Rapporteur: Mr Claude DESAMA

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A Series: Reports - B Series: Motions for Resolutions, Oral Questions - C Series: Documents received from other Institutions (e.g. Consultations)

* = Consultation procedure requiring a single reading

**II = Cooperation procedure (second reading) which requires the votes of a majority of the current Members of Parliament for rejection or amendment

**I = Cooperation procedure (first reading)

*** = Parliamentary assent which requires the votes of a majority of the current Members of Parliament

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At its sitting of 13 June 1990 the European Parliament delivered its opinion at first reading on the Commission proposal for a Council decision adopting a specific programme concerning the preparation of the development of an operational EUROTRA system.

At the sitting of 12 September 1990 the President of Parliament announced that the common position had been received and referred to the Committee on Energy, Research and Technology as the committee responsible.

At its meetings of 28 September and 16 October 1990 the committee considered the common position and the draft recommendation.

At the latter meeting, it adopted the following recommendation unanimously.

The following took part in the vote: La Pergola, chairman; Lannoye, vice-chairman; Desama, rapporteur; Anger, Bettini, Breyer, Chiabrando, Garcia Arias, Görlach (for Linkohr), Pompidou, Porrazzini, Regge, Robles Piquer, Sanz Fernandez, Seligman and Verwaerde.

The recommendation was tabled on 16 October 1990.

The deadline for tabling amendments to the common position or proposals to reject it will appear on the draft agenda for the part-session at which the recommendation is to be considered.

A

RECOMMENDATION

(Cooperation procedure: second reading)

on the common position adopted by the Council with a view to the adoption of a decision adopting a specific programme concerning the preparation of the development of an operational EUROTRA system (COM(89) 0603 final¹ and COM(90) 0296 final²)

The Committee on Energy, Research and Technology,

- having regard to the common position of the Council (C3-0256/90 - SYN 228), recommends that the European Parliament amend the common position as follows:

Common position of the Council

Amendments

(Amendment No. 1)

After the seventh recital, new recital

whereas the programme is expected to produce a high-level scientific prototype in the field of machine translation;

(Amendment No. 2)

After the ninth recital, new recital

whereas the functional, financial and tempered conditions for carrying out an evaluation of the programme have been met; whereas such an evaluation should make it possible to look forward to the creation of Community added value as a result of the research carried out in this field;

¹ OJ No. C 007, 12.01.1990, p. 7

² OJ No. C 209, 22.8.1990, p. 24

Common position of the Council

Amendments

(Amendment No. 3)

Article 2

1. The funds estimated as necessary for the execution of the programme amount to ECU 10 million, including expenditure on five temporary staff.

2. An indicative allocation of funds is set out in Annex II.

1. Irrespective of the amount considered necessary under Decision 89/410/EEC and of the implementation of the 1989 budget, the amount of Community expenditure deemed necessary to carry out the action instituted by this Decision for the period in question (1 July 1990 - 30 June 1992) is ECU 10 million including expenditure on five temporary staff.

2. The budgetary authority shall determine the appropriations available for each financial year.

3. An indicative allocation of funds is set out in Annex II.

(Amendment No. 4)

Annex I, Title 1, paragraph (d), (new)

(d) Cooperation with institutes at national level

- intensive cooperation with institutes at national level aimed at harmonizing lexical and terminological resources and making existing systems compatible.

(Amendment No. 5)

Annex II, Title 1, paragraph 1.1.

1.1. Services contracts

The implementation of the system development, testing and research environment (action line 2.1), which will provide all participating parties with a common set of tools, will be entrusted to industrial contractors on the basis of calls for tenders. It will be financed fully from the Community budget.

1.1. Services contracts

The establishment of the system development, testing and research environment (action line 2.1), which will provide all participating parties with a common set of tools, will be entrusted to industrial contractors on the basis of calls for tenders. The proportion of financing which comes from the Community budget will be determined in each contract.

(Amendment No. 6)
Annex II, Title 1, paragraph 1.3

1.3 Shared cost projects

The linguistic research of general interest (action line 2.3), research and development into advanced system architectures (action line 2.4) and reusability of lexical and terminological resources (action line 2.5) will be carried out as cooperative ventures between industries, research and EUROTRA teams. Shared-cost research projects should as a general rule be carried out by independent participants from at least two Member States.

The contracts for shared-cost research projects shall, as a general rule, be awarded following a selection procedure based on calls for proposals published in the Official Journal of the European Communities.

For shared-cost contracts, the Community participation will as a general rule be up to 50% of the total expenditure, but this percentage may be varied according to the nature and the stage of development of the research. Alternatively, universities and research institutes may, for each project they carry out under this programme, opt either for 50% funding of total expenditure or 100% funding of the additional marginal costs.

1.3 Shared cost projects

The linguistic research of general interest (action line 2.3), research and development into advanced system architectures (action line 2.4) and reusability of lexical and terminological resources (action line 2.5) will be carried out through partnerships between industries, research centres and EUROTRA teams.

The specific projects and contractors will be selected on a call for tenders/proposals basis.

The Community contribution to these projects will be determined on a case-by-case basis but may not exceed 50% under any circumstances.

Common position of the Council

Amendments

(Amendment No. 7)
Annex II, Title 1, paragraph 1.4

1.4 Grants

Grants will be awarded to qualified post-graduate students.

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Grants will be awarded to scientifically qualified post-graduate students and researchers (at doctoral and postdoctoral levels).

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

1. On 13 June 1990, the European Parliament delivered its opinion at first reading on the proposal from the Commission to the Council for a decision adopting a specific programme concerning preparation of the development of an operational EUROTRA system and proposed ten amendments thereto.
2. The Commission accepted eight of these amendments. The other two amendments (amendments Nos. 5 and 7) were only partially accepted.
3. We can therefore only welcome the convergence of views between the European Parliament and the Commission on the approach to be taken to the further development of the EUROTRA system.
4. The Council unanimously adopted its common position on 29 June 1990.
5. Only two of our amendments (Amendments Nos. 2 and 6) - in fact only Amendment No. 6 to any significant extent - have been incorporated in the text of this common position. Furthermore, the Council has made some changes to the Commission's initial proposal, simplifying certain points and clarifying others in the light of the wording adopted for the third framework programme. Thus, the number of recitals has been reduced from 18 to 10 and Articles 4, 5 and 6 have been rearranged.
6. It is important to note that a new Article 7 has been inserted describing explicitly the working conditions of the Advisory Committee. Similarly, in the Annex, the evaluation of results in terms of objectives is more stringently defined.
7. Consequently, while approving of the changes made by the Council, we very much regret it has not seen fit to adopt the improvements which we proposed.
8. In its remarks on the Council's common position, the Commission points out that it supported 8 out of 10 of our amendments and it is therefore to be hoped that it will reintroduce them into its re-examined proposal.
9. For these reasons, your rapporteur proposes that the amendments not accepted by the Council after first reading, and which are vital for the adjustments we feel are needed to the EUROTRA system, be endorsed so that EUROTRA can become operational in optimal conditions.