



European Communities

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT**SESSION DOCUMENTS**

English Edition

8 October 1990

DOCUMENT A3-0246/90

*

REPORT

drawn up on behalf of the Committee on Youth, Culture,
Education, the Media and Sport

on the Commission proposal for a Council decision
concerning the conclusion of an Agreement between the
European Economic Community and the Principality of
Liechtenstein establishing cooperation in the field of
training in the context of the implementation
of COMETT II (1990-1994)
(COM(90) 95 final - C3-0234/90)

Rapporteur: Mr Roberto BARZANTI, chairman

*
* * *

(Adopted pursuant to Rule 116(2) of the Rules of
Procedure)

DOC_EN\RR\96461

PE 140.440/fin
Or. PT/ES/FR

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

C O N T E N T S

	<u>Page</u>
Procedural page	3
A. DRAFT LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION	5
B. EXPLANATORY STATEMENT	6
Opinion of the Committee on Budgets.....	8
Opinion of the Committee on Energy, Research and Technology	9
Opinion of the Committee on External Economic Relations.....	11

By letter of 7 August 1990 the Council consulted the European Parliament on the Commission proposal for a Council decision concerning the conclusion of an agreement between the European Economic Community and the Principality of Liechtenstein establishing cooperation in the field of training in the context of the implementation of COMETT II (1990-1994).

At the sitting of 10 September 1990 the President of Parliament announced that he had referred the above proposal to the Committee on Youth, Culture, Education, the Media and Sport as the committee responsible and to the Committee on Budgets, the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs and Industrial Policy, the Committee on Energy, Research and Technology and the Committee on External Economic Relations for their opinions.

At its meeting of 21 September 1990 the Committee on Youth, Culture, Education, the Media and Sport decided to apply the simplified procedure pursuant to Rule 116(2) of the Rules of Procedure, and the chairman, Mr Barzanti, was thus deemed to have been appointed rapporteur.

Having received fewer than four objections by 5 October 1990, the chairman declared the report adopted.

The opinions of the Committee on Budgets, the Committee on Energy, Research and Technology and the Committee on External Economic Relations are attached to this report; the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs and Industrial Policy decided not to deliver an opinion.

The report was tabled on 8 October 1990.

The deadline for tabling amendments will appear on the draft agenda for the part-session at which the report is to be considered.

DRAFT LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION

embodying the opinion of the European Parliament on the Commission proposal for a Council decision concerning the conclusion of the agreement between the European Economic Community and the Principality of Liechtenstein establishing cooperation in the field of training in the context of the implementation of COMETT II (1990-1994)

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the Commission proposal to the Council¹,
 - having been consulted by the Council pursuant to Article 235 of the EEC Treaty (Doc. C3-234/90)²
 - considering the proposed legal basis to be appropriate,
 - having regard to its resolutions of 18 November 1988³ and 16 March 1990⁴,
 - having regard to the Council Decision (89/27/EEC) of 16 December 1988⁵,
 - having regard to the Council Decisions of 11 December 1989 and 29 March 1990⁶,
 - having regard to the report of the Committee on Youth, Culture, Education, the Media and Sport and to the opinions of the Committee on Budgets, the Committee on Energy, Research and Technology and the Committee on External Economic Relations (A3-0246/90)
1. Approves the conclusion and entry into force of the agreement on cooperation in the field of training in the context of the implementation of COMETT II (1990-1994) between the European Economic Community and the Principality of Liechtenstein, in accordance with international public law and international practice;
 2. Instructs its President to forward this opinion to the Council, the Commission, the Governments of the Member States and the Government of the Principality of Liechtenstein.

¹ COM(90) 95 final

² Doc. 7987/89

³ OJ No. C 326, 19.12.1988, p. 301

⁴ OJ NO. C 96, 17.4.1990, p.334

⁵ OJ No. L 13, 17.1.1989, p. 28

⁶ OJ NO. L 102, 21.4.1990, p.1

B

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

I - The COMETT programme

The urgent need for the Community to acquire a technology capable of competing on the international market, together with the parallel need to train highly skilled personnel, brought about the launching of the COMETT (Community in Education and Training) programme, which was approved by the Council on 24 July 1986 and came into operation on 1 January 1987. Its main objectives are cooperation between universities and companies in the field of training in new technologies, improvement of the training available at local, regional and national level with a view to alleviating the economic imbalances in the Community, and development of the standard of training in the light of technological changes and their social consequences.

The programme comprises the following measures:

- (a) the establishment and development of a European network of associations of universities and companies for purposes of training (via cooperation agreements both within Member States, at local and regional level, and at international level), to be of Community interest;
- (b) the organization of transnational exchanges on the basis of grants to students, lecturers and industrial managers;
- (c) continuing training projects in advanced technologies and multimedia home study training schemes, to be organized jointly by universities and companies;
- (d) exchange of information and experiences, and dissemination of the most innovatory practices.

The success of the programme in 1987 and 1988 is clear from the existence of more than 1045 projects, with the participation of over 2500 companies, 1000 universities and 1000 other bodies. In July 1988 the Commission, in its proposal on the second phase of the COMETT programme (1990-1994), suggested a budget allocation of 250 m ECU, i.e. three times the amount allotted for the first phase.

Parliament gave its unconditional support to the Commission proposal. Unfortunately, the Council allocated only 200 m ECU to the second phase of the programme, which it approved on 16 December 1988.

The COMETT programme, like the DELTA, SPRINT, EUROTECNET and ERASMUS programmes, is contributing to the major strategic objectives in the field of education and training in the Community, and, in particular, is stimulating the completion of the internal market, the integration of education and the world of work and the alleviation of regional inequalities.

II - The Community, the EFTA countries and Liechtenstein

With the impending competition of the internal market in 1993, the six member states of the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) - Austria, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden and Switzerland - have been moving progressively closer to the European Economic Community. The same applies to the Principality of Liechtenstein, situated between Switzerland and Austria. The Oslo Declaration, signed on 15 March 1989 by the six EFTA countries, provides for the development of closer links with the Community and led to the EEC-EFTA ministerial meeting of 19 December 1989. At this meeting, and in the light of the Luxembourg Declaration of 1984, it was decided to strengthen cooperation between both organizations with a view to the gradual consolidation of the European Economic Area (EEA) comprising 18 countries. To this end, it is essential to achieve free movement of persons, goods, capital and services between the member states of the two organizations and to extend cooperation in such fields as research and development, the environment, education, working conditions and social welfare and tourism.

However, the strengthening of cooperation between the EFTA countries, the Principality of Liechtenstein and the Member States of the Community must not take place to the detriment of the Community's internal integration. Equally, this major cooperation effort at European level must not ignore the newly democratic countries of Central and Eastern Europe.

III - Extension of the COMETT programme to the Principality of Liechtenstein

On 12 December 1989, the Council authorized the Commission to negotiate an agreement with Liechtenstein with a view to establishing cooperation in the field of training in the area of technology in the context of the implementation of COMETT II (1990-1994), on the basis of practical arrangements similar to those specified in the agreements between the EFTA countries and the Community. Liechtenstein recognizes that COMETT is, and must remain, a Community programme, and that the Community's interests must be safeguarded. The Committee on Youth, Culture, Education, the Media and Sport therefore suggests that Parliament approve the Commission proposal, provided that the Council does not intend to depart from the agreements submitted to Parliament.

In conclusion, the Committee on Youth, Culture, Education, the Media and Sport:

- (a) Congratulates the Commission on its proposal concerning the conclusion of agreement between the European Economic Community and the Principality of Liechtenstein establishing cooperation in the field of training in the context of the implementation of COMETT II (1990-1994);
- (b) Approves, without amendment, the proposal for a Council decision concerning the conclusion of the agreement between the European Economic Community and the Principality of Liechtenstein establishing cooperation in the field of training in the context of the implementation of COMETT II (1990-1994);
- (c) Calls on the Council to adopt this proposal without delay, to enable the Principality of Liechtenstein to take part in the COMETT II programme in 1990.

OPINION

of the Committee on Budgets

Letter from the chairman of the committee to Mr BARZANTI, chairman of the Committee on Youth, Culture, Education, the Media and Sport

Subject: Opinion of the Committee on Budgets concerning the proposal for a Council decision concerning the conclusion of an agreement between the European Economic Community and the Principality of Liechtenstein establishing cooperation in the field of training in the context of the implementation of COMETT II 1990-1994 (COM(90) 95 final)

Dear Mr Barzanti,

At its meeting of 1 June 1990 the Committee on Budgets considered the above proposal.

The Committee on Budgets noted that the conclusion of this agreement is the outcome of the results of the negotiations held between the Community and Liechtenstein pursuant to the directives of the Council of 11 December 1989.

This being the case, the Committee on Budgets approved the proposal.

Yours sincerely,
(sgd) Thomas von der VRING

The following were present for the vote: von der Vring, chairman, Arias, Canete, Boge, Colajanni, Colom I Naval, Elles, Kellett-Bowman, Langes, Lo Giudice, McCartin (for Forte), Miranda da Silva, Pasty, Theato, Tomlinson and Wynn

OPINION

of the Committee on Energy, Research and Technology

Letter from the chairman of the committee, Mr LA PERGOLA, to Mr BARZANTI, chairman of the Committee on Youth, Culture, Education, the Media and Sport

Subject: Proposal for a Council decision concerning the conclusion of an agreement between the European Economic Community and the principality of Liechtenstein establishing cooperation in the field of training in the context of the implementation of COMETT II (1990-1994) (COM(90) 95 final)

31 May 1990

Dear Mr Barzanti,

At its meeting of 30 and 31 May 1990, the Committee on Energy, Research and Technology considered the proposal for a Council decision concerning the conclusion of an agreement between the European Economic Community and the Principality of Liechtenstein establishing cooperation in the field of training in the context of the implementation of the Community action programme regarding training in the field of technologies (COMETT II) (1990-1994).

The draft agreement with the Principality of Liechtenstein included in the proposal for a Council decision resembles other agreements between the European Community and the EFTA countries which have already been proposed and which received the approval not only of this committee but also of the European Parliament.

The present COMETT II programme (1990-1994) involves a series of transnational operations designed to strengthen and stimulate cooperation between universities and undertakings within a European framework of initial and continuing training in particularly advanced technologies in response to technological change and social transformation.

As on other occasions, the European Parliament has again been aware of the discrepancy between supply and demand as regards appropriate technological training and people trained to deal with industrial advanced technology. This problem was behind the creation of the COMETT programme for 1986-1992.

When this COMETT programme was launched, the Committee on Energy, Research and Technology made a number of comments which still remain valid.

- the programme should be operated in close conjunction with the Community's research and technological development programmes;
- cooperation between business and universities as regards training for new technologies should be centred on the problems associated with specific developments in the field of industrial innovation;

- the technological challenge facing the Community cannot be mastered or overcome unless university-based initial training includes environmental technology.

It is the opinion of the Committee on Energy, Research and Technology that the draft cooperation agreement submitted in the context of the COMETT II programme could involve mutual advantages and substantial aid for improving the effectiveness of Europe's scientific and technological potential, as well as having a beneficial effect on small and medium-sized businesses.

The European Parliament has already approved other framework agreements for scientific and technological cooperation between the European Community and EFTA countries, while stating its belief that the participation of countries, such as the principality of Liechtenstein in research and technological training programmes should not involve any reduction in the budgetary provision for the Community's own universities, laboratories and research centres.

On the basis of these principles, the Committee on Energy, research and Technology recommends to the Committee on Youth, Culture, Education, the Media and Sport, as the committee responsible, that it approve the proposal for a Council decision submitted by the Commission.

Yours sincerely,

(sgd) Antonio LA PERGOLA
Chairman

The following took part in the vote: Adam, acting chairman, Lannoye (vice-chairman), Bettini, Chiabrando, Garcia Arias, Gasoliba i Bohm, Larive, Linkohr, Samland (for Schinzel), Sanz Fernandez, Schlee and Seligman.

OPINION

of the Committee on External Economic Relations

Letter from the chairman of the committee to Mr Barzanti, chairman of the Committee on Youth, Culture, Education, the Media and Sport

Subject: Proposal for a Council decision concerning the conclusion of an agreement between the European Economic Community and the Principality of Liechtenstein establishing cooperation in the field of training in the context of the implementation of COMETT II (1990-1994)

Dear Mr Barzanti,

At its meeting of 17 September 1990 the Committee on External Economic Relations considered the proposal for a Council decision concerning the conclusion of agreements between the European Economic Community and the Principality of Liechtenstein establishing cooperation in the field of training in the context of the implementation of COMETT II (1990-1994) on which it had been asked for its opinion on 10 September 1990.

By its decision of 16 December 1988 the Council adopted the second stage of the cooperation programme between universities and undertakings in the field of training in the framework of COMETT II 1990-1994 and, on 22 May 1989, the Council approved the opening up of COMETT II to the EFTA countries. On 12 December 1989 the Council authorized the Commission to negotiate an analogous agreement with Liechtenstein.

Like the EFTA countries, Liechtenstein agreed to the principle that COMETT II should remain a Community programme in which the Community's interests should be safeguarded, and a bilateral agreement was drawn up in identical terms to those with the EFTA countries.

The agreement is based on Article 235 of the Treaty which requires that the European Parliament be consulted. The legal basis proposed appears to be appropriate.

The agreement provides for the participation of at least two Member States of the Community in transnational projects drawn up by Liechtenstein or in cooperation with it.

As regards exchanges, the programme should only support those which take place between a Member State of the Community and Liechtenstein.

Liechtenstein's financial contribution will be calculated on the basis of its gross national product compared to that of the twelve Member States, as is the case in a whole range of other projects negotiated with EFTA (e.g. in the framework of SCIENCE), with which Liechtenstein has already been invited to associate itself.

All the agreements, including that with Liechtenstein under review, provide for the committee empowered to take all decisions relating to the selection of projects to have exclusive responsibility, the establishment of a joint committee, the exchange of information and efforts to further freedom of movement for students and university personnel in general.

The agreement in question forms a contribution to the growing and strengthening cooperation between the European Community and Liechtenstein with EFTA and with the rest of Europe.

The Committee on External Economic Relations, which attaches great importance to the development and intensification of links between the Community and EFTA, with which Liechtenstein is very closely linked, can only welcome the outcome of these negotiations.

Consequently, at its meeting of 30 May 1990 the Committee on External Economic Relations unanimously decided to give a favourable opinion and instructed me to inform you accordingly in the form of a letter.

Yours sincerely,

(sgd) Willy DE CLERCQ

The following took part in the vote: De Clercq, chairman, Stravrou; Moorhouse, vice-chairmen; Alliot-Marie (for Chabert), Benoit, Braun, Moser, Ceyrac, Cunha Oliveira (for Miranda), Hindley, M. Junker, Lemmer, Marck (for Estgen), Melandri (for Aglietta), Moretti, Neubauer, Peijs, Porto, Randzio Plath, Rossetti, Simmonds, Sonneveld (for Gallenzi), Spencer, Titley, Tsimas and Visser (for Sainjon).