

# COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

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COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE COUNCIL

International Science and Technology Centre, Moscow

## Background

During the EPC Ministerial Meeting in Lisbon on 17 February 1992, Ministers supported the proposal to set up an International Science and Technology Centre in Moscow which had been put forward initially by Germany, the United States and Russia.

The ISTC is to be a coordinating structure/clearing house to select, organise and implement activities designed to reorient scientists and engineers active in military/weapons related research towards activities which would engage them in peaceful applications of their expertise. This initiative will be developed in parallel to Community sponsored programmes and initiatives in the PECO countries and the independent states.

This proposal was subsequently explored in preliminary technical discussions in Brussels and was referred to the Coreper on 26 February and the General Affairs Council on 2 March. The Council approved the principle of establishing the ISTC with Community financial support and participation and invited the Commission to submit proposals concerning the Centre's objectives, organisational structure, membership and procedures.

The present communication is a response to this request.

## Objectives

In fulfilling its function as a coordinating body and clearing house, the ISTC will provide assistance and training for scientists and engineers and will organise exchange/twinning projects designed to prevent the further proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. It will provide incentives and support to participating scientists and engineers to enable them to engage in long-term scientific activities involving the peaceful application of their expertise. It will support the development of appropriate regulatory bodies and thus contribute to the overall stabilisation of society in the states concerned.

By creating incentives to employ their professional skills within the independent states, the ISTC should reduce the risk of large scale emigration of scientists and engineers with expertise in sensitive areas.

The ISTC will also contribute through the activities of participating scientists and engineers to the conversion of defense related industries to peaceful activities and encourage the development of standards and practices conducive to environmental protection.

## Organisational Structure

### Governing Board

Overall management will be the responsibility of a Governing Board.

The Board will include representatives of donors that provide substantial contributions to the work of the ISTC. The number of board seats for each donor will depend on the size of its contribution. The Board may be enlarged from time to time to include new donors making substantial contributions.

Board decisions on programme orientations and project proposals will be taken by majority vote.

### Management Committee

The Management Committee will select, review and supervise the implementation of the projects and prepare proposals for submission to the Board. The Committee will include representatives from the donors and the recipients. Representatives of NGOs, relevant professional bodies and specialised research institutions may be invited to participate in its work.

### Executive Director

The Executive Director and Deputy Director will be nominated and appointed by the Board acting by majority vote.

They will be responsible for the day-to-day management of the Centre.

### Location

The Centre's headquarters will be located close to Moscow. The establishment of a number of branches in other involved independent states will be provided for.

### Membership

Membership of the ISTC will include substantial donors and representatives of the recipients.

### Access to Information

A detailed agreement will be necessary on the intellectual property rights regime for work carried out under the auspices of the ISTC as well as monitoring procedures.

### Funding

All donors will contribute to infrastructure and overhead costs of the ISTC. The Russians will finance the Centre's accommodation, communications and miscellaneous local expenditures. Projects will be jointly financed. In exceptional cases, provision of bilateral funding can be taken into consideration.

The United States appears willing to make an initial contribution of US\$25 million although it would prefer to earmark these funds for specific bilateral projects.

The Community could make available an initial grant a comparable amount for the establishment of the ISTC and for the launching of certain projects. This grant will be provided from funds for technical assistance to the independent states.

Other parties will be encouraged by the Community and the United States to make substantial commitments.

Longer term commitments will be needed to ensure the functioning of the ISTC on a multiannual basis and to develop new activities. These could include fostering improved relations with the international scientific community.

### Community Participation

The Community should be represented by the Commission on the Governing Board and the Management Committee. The Community will make available an appropriate number of administrative staff and experts to the ISTC.

In addition, the Community will be ready to employ scientists and engineers recruited through the ISTC for nuclear safety projects supported by the PHARE programme and the Community's technical assistance programme for the independent states. In particular, they may be employed in training programmes, support for nuclear regulatory authorities and twinning arrangements with non-governmental organisations and private sector corporations.

In carrying out its tasks related to the establishment and running of the ISTC, the Commission will need to dispose of sufficient logistical support.

### Procedures

The Commission will convene a meeting of senior officials in Brussels on 11 March in order to reach agreement on the ISTC's functions, structure and procedures, including the eligibility criteria for sectors to be included and for project proposals. This meeting will be attended by officials from the Community (Commission and Presidency), the United States, Japan and Canada.

Once agreement has been reached on these points, a follow-up meeting will be convened (preferably on 12 and 13 March) to which representatives of the independent states will be invited.

Conclusion

The Council is invited to approve the above-mentioned orientations and to note that, on this basis, the Commission will seek the agreement of the other parties participating in the meeting to be held in Brussels on 11 March.