

# COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

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Brussels, 22 July 1975

Proposal for a  
COUNCIL DECISION (EEC)

concluding the Agreement for the implementation  
of a European project on nuisances on the subject:  
"Research on the physico-chemical behaviour of  
sulphur dioxide in the atmosphere" (project 61a)

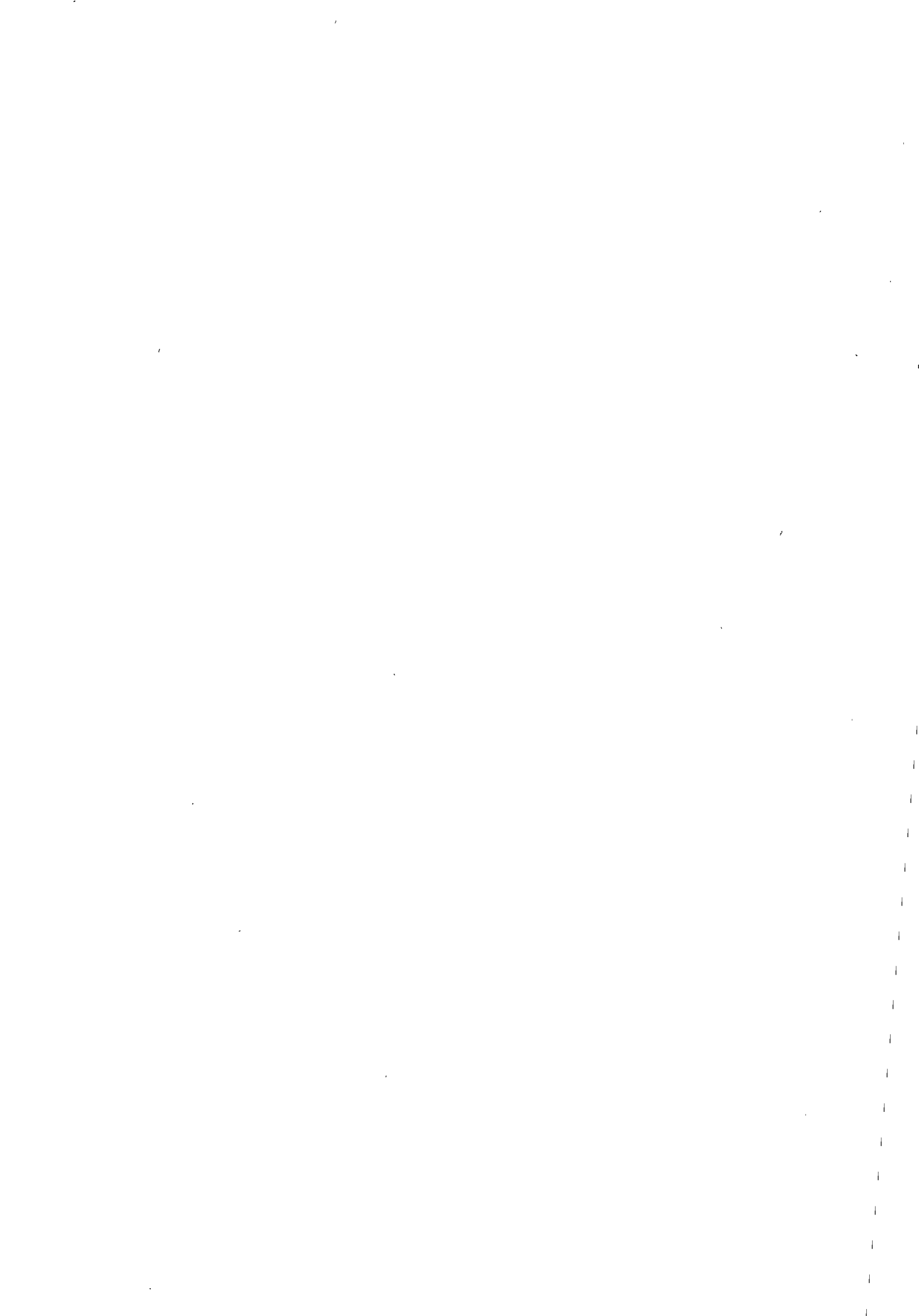
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Proposal for a  
COUNCIL DECISION (EEC)

concluding the Agreement for the implementation  
of a European project on nuisances on the subject:  
"Analysis of organic micro-pollutants in water"  
(project 64b)

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(submitted to the Council by the Commission)



MEMORANDUM FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE COUNCIL

On 23 November 1971, ten European States signed the agreement for the implementation of the European COST project on nuisances on the subject: "Research on the physicochemical behaviour of sulphur dioxide in the atmosphere" (Project 61a). The European Coal and Steel Community, for its part, signed this agreement following the invitation extended to the Commission by the Council at its 176th meeting on 23 November 1971.

In addition, twelve European States signed the agreement for the implementation of the European COST project on nuisances on the subject: "Analysis of organic micro-pollutants in water" (project 64b).

The agreements provided for:

- (a) over a four-year period, an annual contribution from the ECSC of 60 000 u.a. for project 61a;
- (b) over a three-year period, an annual contribution from the EEC of 174 000 u.a.

By a decision of 14 May 1973, the Council adopted an EEC research programme (List A) which comprised, among other items, performance by the JRC of the research work falling within the field of activities already mentioned.

Consequently it appears that supplementary financial support will no longer be necessary for the performance of work coming within the international COST agreements.

On 26 July 1973, the Commission requested the Council to conclude:

- (a) the accession of the Community to the agreement on "Research on the behaviour of sulphur dioxide in the atmosphere" (Doc. COST 17/72) under the terms of Article 228 of the EEC Treaty;
- (b) the accession of the Community to the agreement on "Analysis of organic micro-pollutants in water" (Doc. COST 18/72) under the terms of Article 228 of the EEC Treaty.

For reasons connected with the continuation of work within the COST framework, the Council was not able to take a decision.

The Council having indicated its agreement on 23 September 1974 with regard to the general principles of developing cooperation within the COST framework, as contained in the opinion of CREST, the procedure could be continued.

In the course of this procedure, the CREST Committee expressed its opinion in favour of the Community's participation in these two projects. This opinion was forwarded to the Council (Doc. R/238/75 (RECH 4)) and to the Commission.

At its 759th meeting on 12 February 1975, the Permanent Representatives Committee stated that it was in favour of Community participation on condition that it was based on Article 235 and not on Article 228 as initially planned.

With due regard to the opinion formulated by the Scientific and Technical Research Committee (CREST), to the position adopted to this effect and to the request of the Permanent Representatives Committee, the Commission refers the two new proposals for a decision (appended hereto) to the Council.

PROPOSAL FOR A COUNCIL DECISION (EEC)

concluding the Agreement for the implementation of a European project on nuisances on the subject: "Research on the physico-chemical behaviour of sulphur dioxide in the atmosphere" (project 61a).

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the EEC and in particular his Article 235 thereof;

Having regard to the proposal from the Commission;

Having regard to the Opinion of the European Parliament;

Whereas, to contribute to the attainment of the objectives set out in Articles 2 and 3 of the Treaty, the Council has adopted, on the basis of Article 235 and by its decision of 14 May 1973, a research programme on protection of the environment\*);

Whereas this programme comprises research projects which form part of the work covered by the aforesaid agreement;

Whereas the participation of the Community in the said agreement is likely to help towards the best possible execution of the Community research programme and consequently to the attainment of the aforesaid Treaty objectives;

Whereas the European Coal and Steel Community is not empowered to carry out the requisite formalities, by the terms of its internal provisions, for the entry into force of the agreements of 23 November 1971;

Whereas the Treaty contains no provision for the powers of action required for these purposes;

Whereas CREST delivered an opinion on 19 December 1974;

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1

On behalf of the EEC, the agreement is hereby concluded for the implementation of a European project on nuisances on the subject: "Research on the physico-chemical behaviour of sulphur dioxide in the atmosphere", the text of which appears in the annex.

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\*) Official Journal no. L 153 of 9 June, p. 11

Article 2

The amount allocated by the Community to the work provided for in the agreement shall be 120 000 u.a.

Article 3

The Commission shall represent the Community on the Management Committee provided for in Article 4 of the agreement.

Article 4

The President of the Council is hereby authorized to designate persons empowered to sign the agreement and to confer on them the powers necessary to bind the Community.

PROPOSAL FOR A COUNCIL DECISION (EEC)

concluding the Agreement for the implementation of a European project on nuisances on the subject "Analysis of organic micro-pollutants in water" (project 64b).

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the EEC and in particular his Article 235 thereof;

Having regard to the proposal from the Commission;

Having regard to the Opinion of the European Parliament;

Whereas, to contribute to the attainment of the objectives set out in Articles 2 and 3 of the Treaty, the Council has adopted, on the basis of Article 235 and by its decision of 14 May 1973, a research programme on protection of the environment\*);

Whereas this programme comprises research projects which form part of the work covered by the aforesaid agreement;

Whereas the participation of the Community in the said agreement is likely to help towards the best possible execution of the Community research programme and consequently to the attainment of the aforesaid Treaty objectives;

Whereas in the Management Committee the representatives of the signatories of the agreement have expressed the wish that the Community participate in the agreement;

Whereas the Treaty contains no provision for the powers of action required for these purposes;

Whereas CREST delivered an opinion on 19 December 1974;

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1

On behalf of the EEC, the agreement is hereby concluded for the implementation of a European project on nuisances on the subject "Analysis of organic micro-pollutants in water", the text of which appears in the annexe.

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\*) Official Journal no.L 153 of 9 June, p.11

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The amount allocated by the Community to the work provided for in the agreement shall be 174 000 u.a.

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FINANCIAL RECORD SHEET

1. Title of project:

Community approval of agreement on projects:

- (a) COST 61a: Research into the physico-chemical behaviour of sulphur dioxide in the atmosphere.
- (b) COST 64b: Analysis of organic micropollutants in water.

2. Legal basis:

Article 235 of the EEC Treaty.

3. Authorizing department:

Directorate-General for Research, Science and Education  
Directorate-General of the Joint Research Centre.

4. Budget entry:

Chapter 2.52 "Protection of the environment" in the Statement of expenditure relating to research and investment activities (Annex I to Section III - Commission - of the Budget of the European Communities).

5. Description and objective of and reasons for the projects

(a) COST 61a

The project relates to the determination of the physico-chemical behaviour of sulphur dioxide in the atmosphere. "Physico-chemical behaviour" means all those reactions which take place in the atmosphere and which cause a change in state of the sulphur dioxide or, alternatively, during which the sulphur dioxide undergoes a chemical transformation which has a decisive effect on its subsequent behaviour or on that of its reaction products.

The proposed research covers the following topics:

1. Research into the natural mechanism for removing some of the compounds from the atmosphere, washing, and absorption on to surfaces such as the soil and plants.

Research into the vertical concentration pattern of sulphur dioxide and sulphuric acid in the atmosphere. This research should produce basic data on lesions caused in living organisms, the corrosion of materials, soil and water acidification and the retention time of sulphur dioxide in the atmosphere.

2. Development of methods of measuring and techniques for determining the amount of sulphuric acid, sulphates and the total acidity in the atmosphere.

These studies are vital if the problems referred to above are to be solved. They will also furnish the information necessary to form a better assessment of the health risks from sulphuric acid and, together with the research referred to in Section 1, will help in the preparation of air quality criteria.

3. Stepping-up exchanges of information and research results, particularly where the participating countries have already started on such activity by organizing meetings and exchanging scientists.

Objective: Transport and effect of pollutants (particularly studies on bioindicators to detect water pollution, studies on genetic toxicity and on biotelemetry for detecting subacute toxic effects in laboratory animals).

(b) COST 64b

Development of methods for the optimum analysis of organic micro-pollutants in water samples. The method should cover the whole range of organic constituents and enable them to be identified and their concentration to be determined within the detection limits set. It is hoped to develop a "multidetector" set of instruments (this is the key aspect of the project) and, having regard to the various ways of developing such a unit, it is considered that separation by gas chromatography is the most suitable method.

The advantage of this method is that only small amounts of sample material are required and that the compounds are separated in such way that they can be examined by various sensitive and selective detectors, including the mass spectrometer.

The project embraces a number of proposed research topics and these are listed below:

1. Compilation of reference data

- List of the organic micropollutants which are present or believed to be present in the polluted water.
- Collection of existing data (mass, infra-red, nuclear magnetic resonance spectra).
- Chemical preparation of reference pollutants for use in physico-chemical measurements.
- Physico-chemical measurements on reference pollutants.

2. Analytical units

- Sampling and treatment
- Separation and detection techniques
- MS/GC coupling
- Evaluation of MS/GC coupling

3. Data processing

- Hardware
- Software

Objective: analysis and monitoring (in particular, the development of a multidetection unit);

Studies on the remote sensing and measurement of pollutants;

Development of a data bank for chemical products.

Duration of project:

- (a) From 1 November 1972 to 31 October 1976 = 4 years
- (b) From 1 November 1972 to 31 October 1975 = 3 years

Financial contribution by the Community

- (a) 120 000 u.a. for 1975 and 1976
- (b) 174 000 u.a. for 1975, i.e., a total of 294 000 u.a.

It should be pointed out that these financial contributions are covered by appropriations allocated under Chapter 2.52 referred to above.

The direct-action project "Protection of the environment", which was approved by the Council on 14 May 1973 and which is being carried out at the JRC establishment at Ispra, includes the execution of work which falls within the ambit of the abovementioned COST projects. In other words, the JRC is already participating de facto in the implementation of these two COST projects by virtue of its "Protection of the environment" project, and there is no question of having to pay extra money for these projects into a non-Commission fund.