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R E P O R T

by the Committee on Energy, Research and Technology

on the Commission proposal for a Council decision concerning the conclusion of a cooperation agreement between the European Economic Community and the Republic of Iceland on a programme plan to stimulate the international cooperation and interchange needed by European research scientists (SCIENCE)

(COM(90) 241 final - C3-0232/90 - SYN 282)

Rapporteur: Mr Antonio LA PERGOLA

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| * | = 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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By letter of 7 August 1990 the Council consulted the European Parliament, pursuant to Article 130q(2) of the EEC Treaty, on the proposal from the Commission to the Council for a decision concerning the conclusion of a cooperation agreement between the European Economic Community and the Republic of Iceland on a programme plan to stimulate the international cooperation and interchange needed by European research scientists (SCIENCE).

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

At its meeting of 17, 18 and 19 September 1990 the Committee on Energy, Research and Technology decided to apply the simplified procedure under Rule 116(2); the chairman was thus deemed to have been appointed rapporteur.

Having received no objections by 6 November 1990, the chairman declared the report adopted.

The opinions of the Committee on External Economic Relations and the Committee on Budgets are attached to this report.

The Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs and Industrial Policy has decided not to deliver an opinion.

The report was tabled on 6 November 1990.

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

A

DRAFT LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION

(Cooperation procedure: first reading)

embodying the opinion of the European Parliament
on the Commission proposal for a Council decision concerning the
conclusion of a cooperation agreement between the
European Economic Community and the Republic of Iceland on
a programme plan to stimulate the international cooperation and
interchange needed by European research scientists (SCIENCE)

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the Commission proposal to the Council (COM(90) 241 final - SYN 282)¹,
 - having been consulted by the Council pursuant to Article 130q(2) of the EEC Treaty (C3-0232/90),
 - having regard to the report of the Committee on Energy, Research and Technology and the opinions of the Committee on External Economic Relations and the Committee on Budgets (A3-0282/90),
1. Approves the Commission proposal in accordance with the vote thereon;
 2. Instructs its President to forward this opinion to the Council and Commission.

¹ OJ No. C 181, 12.07.1990, p. 15

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT1. THE 'SCIENCE' STIMULATION PLAN

1.1. The SCIENCE stimulation plan consists in a range of activities, chosen on the basis of their scientific and technical quality, aimed at establishing an increasingly extensive range of scientific and technical cooperation and exchange at European level, the overall objective being to improve the effectiveness of scientific and technological research in all the Member States and thus to help to reduce the disparities in scientific and technological development between the various Member States of the European Community. It covers all fields of science and technology (exact and natural sciences).

1.2. It derives from the 1987-1991 multiannual framework programme and has been allocated a budget of 167 m ECU covering a period of five years from 1 January 1988, and its implementation will take the form of research bursaries, research grants, subsidies for high-level training courses, contracts for the twinning of laboratories and operational contracts.

1.3. In particular, the Council decision authorizes the Commission to negotiate agreements with third countries so as to involve them partially or totally in the programme plan.

2. THE DRAFT EEC-ICELAND COOPERATION AGREEMENT

2.1. This proposal for a decision is formulated in similar terms to the proposals for decisions on agreements between the EEC and other member countries of EFTA (Norway, Sweden, Austria, Finland and Switzerland), also submitted by the Commission, except for the financial contribution of each country.

2.2. In addition the proposals for decisions provide for:

- the involvement of each country in the implementation of the Community plan;
- a financial contribution from the country concerned towards the financing of the work to be carried out under the terms of research contracts and the management and operating expenditure for the Community programme plan; this financial contribution is proportionate to each country's gross domestic product, i.e.:

Norway	2 394 810 ECU
Austria	3 271 800 ECU
Switzerland	4 600 200 ECU
Finland	2 460 000 ECU
Sweden	4 514 100 ECU
Iceland	108 000 ECU

- the right of individuals and research bodies in the country concerned to submit research proposals and to conclude the relevant research contracts with the Commission;

- the enlargement of the Committee for European Development of Science and Technology (CODEST) to include a representative of the country concerned.

2.3. All the draft cooperation agreements drawn up within the framework of the SCIENCE programme may be of mutual benefit to the countries concerned and make an important contribution to improving European scientific and technological potential, in addition to having a beneficial effect on small and medium-sized undertakings (SMUs).

3. THE POSITION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

3.1. The Committee on Energy, Research and Technology stated its views on the contents of the SCIENCE programme (1988-1992) in the Sanz report. At its first reading, the European Parliament approved the proposal for a Council decision after amending it six times. Whilst supporting the Commission's proposal, the amendments were intended to stress the implications of the need for cohesion in the SCIENCE programme, the participation of the member countries of EFTA and the vital contribution the programme could make to reducing the scientific and technological imbalances in the Community.

3.2. The European Parliament has already approved² previous framework agreements on scientific and technological cooperation between the European Community and the above-mentioned member countries of EFTA, including Iceland, but it considers that the participation of third countries in research and technology programmes should not lead to a reduction in the budget allocations for universities, laboratories and research centres in the Member States of the European Community.

3.3. Taking these considerations into account, the European Parliament may approve this proposal for a decision without amendment.

² Resolution of 12 December 1986, OJ No. C 7, 12.1.1987, pp. 353-4

OPINION

of the Committee on Budgets

Letter from the chairman of the committee to Mr Antonio LA PERGOLA, chairman of the Committee on Energy, Research and Technology

Luxembourg, 29 October 1990

Subject: Opinion of the Committee on Budgets on the proposal for a Council decision concerning the conclusion of a cooperation agreement between the European Economic Community and the Republic of Iceland on a programme plan to stimulate the international cooperation and interchange needed by European research scientists (SCIENCE) - COM(90) 241 final - C3-0232/90

Dear Mr La Pergola,

At its meeting of 17 October 1990 the Committee on Budgets considered the above proposal.

The committee noted that involvement of the Republic of Iceland in the SCIENCE programme will bring a total financial contribution of 108 000 ECU to be entered in the revenue section of the budget.

The committee delivered a favourable opinion on this proposal.

Yours sincerely,

Thomas von der VRING

Present: von der Vring, chairman; Cornelissen, second vice-chairman, Arias Cañete, Cochet, Colom i Naval, Cot, Desama, Elles, Goedmakers, Holzfuß, Langes, Lo Giudice, Miranda da Silva, Onur (for Hory), Pasty, Samland, Wynn

OPINION

of the Committee on External Economic Relations

Letter from the chairman of the committee to Mr Antonio LA PERGOLA, chairman of the Committee on Energy, Research and Technology

Luxembourg, 31 October 1990

Subject: Proposal for a Council decision concerning the conclusion of a cooperation agreement between the European Economic Community and the Republic of Iceland on a programme plan to stimulate the international cooperation and interchange needed by European research scientists (SCIENCE)
(COM(90) 241 final - C3-0232/90 - SYN 282)

Dear Mr La Pergola,

At its meeting of 30/31 October 1990 the Committee on External Economic Relations considered the proposal for a Council decision concerning the conclusion of a cooperation agreement between the European Economic Community and the Republic of Iceland on a programme plan to stimulate the international cooperation and interchange needed by European research scientists (SCIENCE).

This programme involves a number of third states, particularly European ones, in the implementation of the Community plan for the mutually beneficial improvement of European scientific and technical potential.

The Republic of Iceland has expressed a desire to be involved:

- It will contribute financially to the work done within the programme plan in proportion with Iceland's GDP;
- Icelandic researchers and research bodies will have the right to submit research proposals and conclude the relevant research contracts with the Commission.

The agreement with the Republic of Iceland is in line with other agreements already concluded with other member countries of EFTA. They all stem from the meeting held in Luxembourg on 9 April 1984 and subsequent meetings at which representatives of EFTA and the EEC emphasized the need to increase scientific cooperation between the EEC and EFTA in view of the increasing interdependence of their economies.

The Committee on External Economic Relations, which has been responsible for relations between the EP and the members of the Committee of EFTA Parliamentarians since 1987 and which is therefore particularly interested in the future of economic and commercial relations between the EEC and EFTA, is especially affected by this matter which contributes towards the creation of a more homogeneous economic area covering the 18 countries forming the EEC and EFTA in the run-up to the European area of 1992.

The Committee on External Economic Relations would like these efforts to be stepped up by further scientific and technical cooperation (COST) and by new prospects for the EFTA countries to participate in Community research and development programmes on the basis of equal opportunities and advantages (particularly in the field of EUREKA). It attaches particular importance to cooperation on environment policy and scientific and technical cooperation in that sphere.

The committee has therefore decided to deliver a favourable opinion on the above proposal and has instructed me to inform you by letter.

Yours sincerely,

Willy de CLERCQ

Present at the time of the vote: De Clercq, chairman; Braun-Moser, Bertens (for Porto), Ib Christensen (for Moretti), Hindley, Lemmer and Peijs.

