



European Communities

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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A3-0286/91

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R E P O R T

of the Committee on Energy, Research and Technology

on the Commission proposal for a Council decision concerning the conclusion of a multilateral cooperation agreement 'Community COST' on eleven concerted action projects in the field of food science and technology ('FLAIR' programme) between the European Economic Community and COST third states.

(COM(91) 289 final - C3-0359/91 - SYN 355

Rapporteur: Mr Antonio LA PERGOLA

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

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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



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



= 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 8 October 1991, the Council consulted the European Parliament, pursuant to Article 130q of the EEC Treaty, on the Commission proposal for a Council decision concerning the conclusion of a multilateral cooperation agreement 'Community-COST' on eleven concerted action projects in the field of food science and technology ('FLAIR' programme) between the European Economic Community and COST third states.

At the sitting of 21 October 1991 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 Agriculture, Fisheries and Rural Development, the Committee on Budgets, the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs and Industrial Policy, the Committee on External Economic Relations and the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection for their opinions.

At its meeting of 17 September 1991, 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 30 October 1991, the chairman declared the report adopted.

The opinion of the Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries and Rural Development is attached to this report. The opinion of the Committee on Budgets will be published separately. The Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs and Industrial Policy, the Committee on External Economic Relations and the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection decided not to deliver opinions.

The report was tabled on 31 October 1991.

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 multilateral cooperation agreement
'Community-COST' on eleven concerted action projects
in the field of food science and technology
('FLAIR' programme) between the European Economic Community
and COST third states

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the Commission proposal to the Council (COM(91) 289 final
- SYN 355)¹
 - having been consulted by the Council pursuant to Article 130q of the EEC
Treaty (C3-0359/91),
 - having regard to the report of the Committee on Energy, Research and
Technology and the opinions of the Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries and
Rural Development and the Committee on Budgets (A3-0286/91),
1. Approves the Commission proposal in accordance with the vote thereon;
 2. Calls for the conciliation procedure to be opened if the Council should
intend to depart from the text approved by Parliament;
 3. Instructs its President to forward this opinion to the Council and
Commission.

¹ OJ No. C 224, 29.8.1991, p. 5

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

I. THE FLAIR PROGRAMME

1. The object of the FLAIR programme is the use of biotechnology in the food industry to improve competitiveness, to strengthen scientific research in this sector and to restore consumer confidence,
2. The programme has a budget allocation of ECU 25 million, and is implemented via a series of concerted and shared-cost actions and by training/mobility grants.

Participation in these actions is open to organizations based in the Community or in third countries which have concluded framework agreements in scientific and technical cooperation with the Community or which participate in the COST programme.

3. Participants may be industrial concerns, undertakings, research institutions or universities established in the Community or in the above third countries.

II. THE DRAFT AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE EEC AND COST THIRD COUNTRIES

4. As stated above, Article 7 of the FLAIR programme authorizes the Commission to negotiate agreements with third countries that are involved in European cooperation in the field of scientific and technical research (COST) or have concluded bilateral agreements in scientific and technical cooperation with the Community.

The draft agreement covers the following eleven concerted action projects:

- COST 901 : Spectroscopic techniques (Near Infrared (NIR), Fourier Transform Infrared (FTIR), Nuclear Magnetic Resonance (NMR) for the rapid direct measurement of food quality
- COST 902 : Relating sensory, instrumental and consumer choice studies
- COST 905 : Predictive modelling of microbial growth and survival in foods
- COST 906 : Prevention and control of potentially pathogenic micro-organisms in poultry and poultry meat processing
- COST 907 : Food safety and quality based on the application of combined processes and Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP)
- COST 908 : In-vitro toxicological studies and real-time analysis of residues in food
- COST 909 : Improvement of food safety and quality through the use of interactive and competitive bindings of food lectins and bacterial adhesions in the gut

COST 910 : Measurement of micronutrient absorption and status

COST 911 : Physiological implication of the consumption of resistant starch in man

COST 912 : Improvement of the quality and compatibility of food consumption and food composition data in Europe

COST 913 : Information flow on food technology, food safety and healthy eating to SMEs and consumers ('FLAIR-FLOW') project

5 The draft multilateral Community-COST agreement provides for:

- the association of interested COST/EFTA third states with the implementation of one or several concerted action projects of the Community programme;
- a financial contribution by each third state to each of the concerted action projects in which it participates, amounting to one twelfth of the Community contribution to the project;
- the establishment of a cooperation committee comprising representatives of the Community and of the contracting states to ensure proper implementation of the agreement.

III. POSITION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

The Committee on Energy, Research and Technology gave its opinion on the FLAIR programme (1988-mid 1993) in its report by Mr CHIABRANDO (A2-0343/88).

At the time the European Parliament proposed a series of amendments which emphasized the need to:

- (a) make the results of the programme available, especially to small and medium-sized undertakings and consumers;
- (b) improve control of processes and reduction of toxic residues;
- (c) create a European network of centres investigating the properties of foodstuffs.

The Council incorporated most of Parliament's amendments in its Common Position.

- 7. It is clear from the research subjects covered by the EEC-COST draft agreement that some of the policy priorities put forward by Parliament at the time are now included in the present proposal.
- 8. In view of the above, Parliament may approve this proposal without amendment.

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

OPINION

of the Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries and Rural Development

Letter from the chairman of the committee to Mr La Pergola, chairman of the Committee on Energy, Research and Technology

Brussels, 29 October 1991

Subject : Proposal for a Council decision concerning the conclusion of a multilateral Cooperation Agreement 'Community-COST' on eleven concerted action projects in the field of food science and technology ('FLAIR' programme) between the European Economic Community and COST third states (COM(91) 289 final)

Dear Mr La Pergola,

At its meeting of 29 October 1991¹, the Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries and Rural Development considered the above proposal.

The purpose of the proposal for a decision is the conclusion of an agreement with a view to involving the EFTA countries, Turkey and Yugoslavia in the research programme in the field of food science and technology ('FLAIR').

The Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries and Rural Development approves this principle of the agreement. The place of the EFTA countries in agri-foodstuffs science and technology is such that their involvement in this programme should generate a coordination of effort advantageous for all parties.

The involvement of Turkey, though less important, does not raise any problems in principle. With regard to Yugoslavia, the Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries and Rural Development questions the advisability, or even the possibility of concluding any agreement at all in view of the present situation.

¹ The following took part in the vote: Colino Salamanca, chairman; Carvalho Cardoso, Dalsass, Funk, Görlach, Howell, Klepsch (for Bocklet), Langenhagen (for Navarro), Livanos, Maher (for Vohrer), Rothe, Saridakis, Schlechter (for Thareau), Sierra Bardaji, Sonneveld, Spencer (for Thareau) and Vazquez Fouz.

The Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries and Rural Development also points out that the EFTA countries and Turkey represent important partners for Community agriculture and fisheries, both as customers and suppliers, as well as very active competitors in the Community market. It is therefore a good thing to establish a certain parallelism in the research and development actions undertaken.

Yours faithfully,

Juan Luis COLINO SALAMANCA