

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

# Working Documents

1983-1984

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13 February 1984

DOCUMENT 1-1400/83

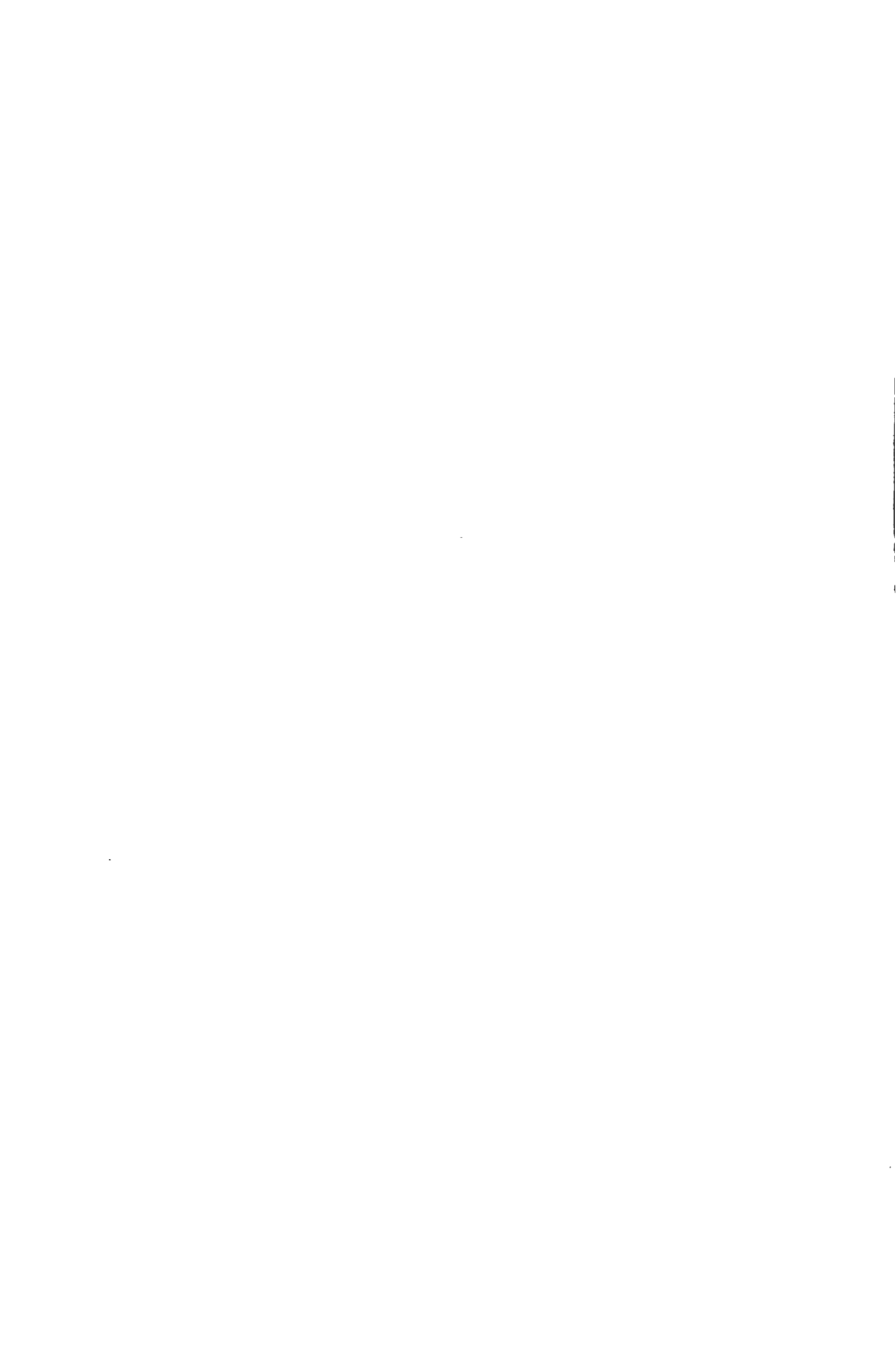
## Report

drawn up on behalf of the Committee on the Environment,  
Public Health and Consumer Protection

on the proposal from the Commission of the European  
Communities to the Council (Doc. 1-891/83 - COM(83) 539  
final) for a decision revising the sectoral research and  
development programme in the field of environment  
(environmental protection and climatology) - indirect  
and concerted action - 1981-1985

Rapporteur: Mr CERAVOLO

PE 88.790/fin.  
Or. Fr/En



By letter of 14 October 1983, the President of the Council consulted the European Parliament pursuant to Article 235 of the Treaty establishing the EEC on the proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council for a decision revising the sectoral research and development programme in the field of environment (environmental protection and climatology) - indirect and concerted action - 1981-1985 (Doc. 1-891/83).

On 14 October 1983, the European Parliament referred this proposal to the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection for detailed consideration and to the Committee on Budgets and the Committee on Energy, Research and Technology for their opinions.

On 3 November 1983, the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection appointed Mr CERAVOLO rapporteur.

It considered the Commission's proposal and the draft report at its meetings of 26 January and 2-3 February 1984.

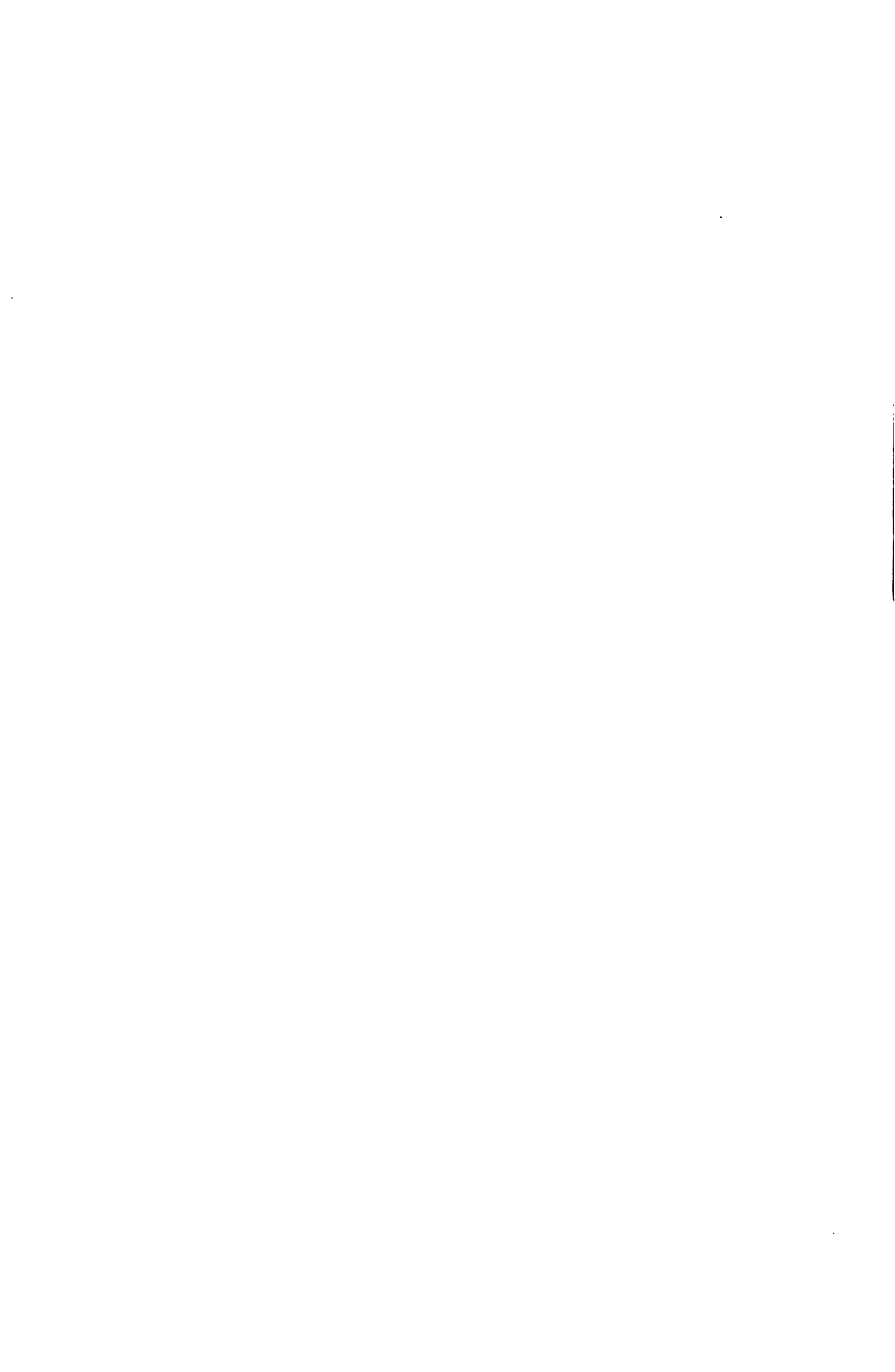
At the latter meeting the committee unanimously adopted the Commission's proposal and the motion for a resolution. It requested the application of Rule 34 of the Rules of Procedure.

The following took part in the vote: Miss Hooper, vice-chairman; Mrs Squarcialupi (deputizing for the rapporteur), Mr Bombard, Mr Ghergo, Mrs Lentz-Cornette, Mrs Maij-Weggen (deputizing for Mr Del Duca), Mr Muntingh, Mrs Schleicher and Mrs Spaak.

The report was tabled on 8 February 1984.

The opinion of the Committee on Energy, Research and Technology is attached and the opinion of the Committee on Budgets will be published separately.

The deadline for tabling amendments to this report appears in the draft agenda for the meeting at which it will be considered.



The Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection hereby submits to the European Parliament the following motion for a resolution,:

A

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

closing the procedure for consultation of the European Parliament on the proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council for a decision revising the sectoral research and development programme in the field of environment (environmental protection and climatology) - indirect and concerted action - 1981-1985

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the proposal from the Commission to the Council (COM(83) 539 final)<sup>1</sup>,
  - having been consulted by the Council pursuant to Article 235 of the EEC Treaty (Doc. 1-891/83),
  - having regard to the report of the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection and the opinions of the Committee on Budgets and the Committee on Energy, Research and Technology (Doc. 1-1400/83),
  - having regard to the result of the vote on the Commission's proposal,
- A. whereas the proposal for a revision of the sectoral research and development programme in the field of environment (environmental protection and climatology) - indirect and concerted action - 1981-1985, is consistent with the re-examination provided for in Article 3 of the programme itself, which was adopted by the Council on 3 March 1981,
- B. whereas this revision is also necessary in order to adapt the programme to the general guidelines laid down by the Framework Programme (1984-1987),

<sup>1</sup> OJ C 274, 13.10.83, p. 4

- C. whereas since 1981 two problems have emerged which have aroused the attention and concern of the European Parliament and of the Community and national institutions, namely acid depositions (rain, snow, fog, frost and dry depositions) and the problem of toxic and dangerous waste,
- D. whereas the research financed by the initial programme into these two problems was inadequate in the case of acid depositions and in the case of waste, in the need of expansion and extension,
- E. whereas the concerted actions (COST) reached their conclusion at the end of 1983,
- F. whereas, furthermore, the concerted actions serve to coordinate research into problems of common interest with third European countries (including Sweden, Finland, Norway, Switzerland, Austria, Spain, Portugal, Yugoslavia and Turkey) and as a result have achieved considerable success in terms of results, methods and benefits, taking into account the modest outlay required by the individual countries and the Community,
- G. whereas the two new additional actions proposed by the Commission relate to 'indoor air quality and its impact on man' and 'bird protection', which are both problems of considerable importance from the point of view of ecology and health,
1. Approves the need for a revision of the programme and agrees on the whole with the guidelines contained in the Commission's proposal;
  2. Stresses the need for increasing emphasis to be given to effective coordination of direct, indirect and concerted research, with a view in particular to the development of a Research Action Programme (RAP) in the field of environment, as laid down by the Framework Programme (1984-1987);
  3. Approves the need for a 'vastly increased' research effort into the effects of atmospheric pollution (acid depositions and exhaust fumes, in particular nitrogen oxides) but stresses that research must in no way be a pretext for delaying the introduction of laws to control emissions into the atmosphere;

4. Considers that insufficient importance is given in the proposal to the effects of atmospheric pollution on the architectural and artistic heritage and hopes that greater weight will be given to this important problem both in the current research programme and in the preparation of future ones;
5. Approves the commitment to an increased research effort in the field of waste management and suggests that in defining a scale of priorities, top priority should be given to the problem of toxic and dangerous waste;
6. Recommends that the Commission should pay particular attention in the Cost 68 concerted action (sewage sludge), to the problem of PCBs and to the effects of pharmaceutical residues and hormones on plants, animals and the food chain;
7. Hopes that, with regard to 'benthic coastal ecosystems', the intention expressed in the proposal of extending research to the Baltic and Mediterranean coastlines will become a reality, as the central feature of a more integrated and systematic research programme for the protection of coastal waters and the coast;
8. Considers that it is necessary to initiate a fresh concerted action on the effects of atmospheric pollutants on health with particular reference to the relations between atmospheric pollutants and the prevalence of certain diseases in certain regions;
9. Bearing in mind the motion for a resolution on indoor pollution (Doc. 1-1043/82) and the report being prepared for the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection, asks the Commission to give priority to its research on indoor air quality and its impact on man;
10. Approves the appropriations requested, while recognizing their modest size relative to the importance and complexity of the proposed lines of research, and hopes that no cuts will be made to this already limited sector of environmental research, in view of the delays already experienced and the huge scale of the research involved;
11. Instructs its President to forward to the Council and Commission the Commission's proposal as voted by Parliament and the corresponding resolution as Parliament's opinion.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY, RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY

Letter from the chairman of the committee to Mr COLLINS, chairman of the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection

Subject: Draft proposal for a Council decision revising the sectoral research and development programme in the field of environment (environmental protection and climatology) - indirect and concerted action - 1981-1985 (Doc. 1-891/83)

Brussels, 3 February 1984

Dear Mr Chairman,

On 1-2 February 1984 the Committee on Energy, Research and Technology considered the abovementioned document and endorsed its general recommendations.

The committee had already pointed out in its discussion of the 1984-1987 framework programme for the scientific and technical activities of the Community (SALZER report - Doc. 1-382/83) the need to give greater emphasis to environment research in the programme. In particular, the committee called on the Commission to examine whether the Community can make a greater contribution to research in areas where transnational causes and effects require cooperation at international level, i.e. principally acid rain, climatic research and the long-term security of groundwater supplies.

The emphasis in the Commission's proposal on research into the ecological effects of atmospheric pollutants and the prevention of soil pollution concurs in large measure with the views of this committee.

The committee welcomes the fact that the concerted actions sector in particular will be expanded under the proposed revision of the Council decision. Coordination of national research in combination with closer international cooperation within COST already represents an important channel through which effective European cooperation can be achieved.



The committee therefore endorses the Commission's proposal with regard to the current research and development programme. However, the Commission should be prevailed upon to submit to the European Parliament a summary report on the implementation and results of the current programme sufficiently in advance of its completion.

Yours sincerely,

(sgd.) Hanna WALZ

The following took part in the vote: Mrs Walz, chairman; Mr Gallagher and Mr Seligman, vice-chairman; Mr Gauthier, Mr Marchesin, Mr Moreland, Mr Pflimlin, Mrs Pruvot (deputizing for Mr Pintat), Mr Purvis, Mr Salzer, Sir Peter Vanneck and Mrs Viehoff (deputizing for Mr Rogalla).

