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ANNEX

to the report by Mr PEDINI
drawn up on behalf of the Committee on Energy,
Research and Technology

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OPINION OF THE COMMITTEE ON BUDGETS

PE 88.485/fin/Ann.

OPINION OF THE COMMITTEE ON BUDGETS

Letter of the chairman of the Committee to Mrs Johanna WALZ,
chairman of the Committee on Energy, Research and Technology

Brussels, 23 March 1984

Subject: Communication from the Commission to the Council concerning the
establishment of the JRC Board of Governors (com (83) 377)

Dear Mrs Walz,

The Committee on Budgets recently¹ considered this communication.

The Commission proposes, in response to the evident problems of decision-making, to "increase participation of scientific and government representatives in the execution of Council decisions for the JRC", by setting up a Board of Governors comprising a Commission Chairman, 10 representatives from the Member States (voting by qualified majority) and 10 scientists from the Member States (voting by simple majority). This body would have certain powers of decision delegated from Council to amend the multiannual programme.

With regard to modifying the multiannual programme, the fact that financial sums included in Council decisions are "estimates", that the Commission has exceptional powers under Article 94(2) of the Financial Regulation to effect substantial transfers in the sector of direct research, and that the Joint Research Centre has a functional budget system, all indicate that considerable flexibility to modify the programme already exists. This flexibility can be exercised by the Commission without the intervention of Member State representatives.

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¹ Meeting of 21/22 March 1984

The following were present: Mr Lange, chairman; Mr Notenboom, vice-chairman; Mr Adonnino, Mr Arndt, Mr Balfe, Lord Douro, Mr Helms (deputizing for Mr Langes), Mr Louwes, Mr Newton-Dunn and Mrs Scrivener.

On the other hand, the Committee on Budgets agrees that the financial management of the Joint Research Centre should be strengthened. Any improvement in this direction is welcome as long as the financial review and control exercised by the Committee on Budgetary Control and by the Court of Auditors is safeguarded.

The Committee on Budgets can accept proposals to strengthen management and control of the Joint Research Centre. It is not clear however that this proposal addresses the problems identified by the Commission itself (the confusion of Council's role between deciding on policy and carrying it out, and the cumbersome nature of decision-making). In addition, the proposal increases Member States' involvement in the administration of the Joint Research Centre, and this could affect the institutional balance between the two parts of the Budgetary Authority.

Yours sincerely,



Erwin LANGE

