

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

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5 July 1983

DOCUMENT 1-552/83

REPORT

drawn up on behalf of the Committee on Agriculture

on the proposal from the Commission of the European
Communities to the Council (Doc. 1-1183/82 - COM (82)

853 final) for a decision adopting joint research
programmes and programmes for coordinating agricultural
research

Rapporteur : Mr F. GAUTIER

By letter of 21 January 1983, the President of the Council requested the European Parliament to deliver an opinion, pursuant to Article 43 of the EEC Treaty, on the proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council for a decision adopting joint research programmes and programmes for coordinating agricultural research.

On 7 February 1983, the President of the European Parliament referred this proposal to the Committee on Agriculture as the committee responsible and to the Committee on Budgets, the Committee on Energy and Research and the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection for opinions.

On 18 January 1983, the Committee on Agriculture appointed Mr GAUTIER rapporteur.

The committee considered the proposal and the draft report at its meetings of 15 and 16 March, 15 June and 4 July 1983.

At the last meeting, the committee decided by 18 votes to 2 to approve the Commission's proposal with the following amendments.

The Commission stated before the committee that it had not adopted any position on the amendments.

The motion for a resolution as a whole was adopted by 18 votes to 2.

The following took part in the vote : Mr Delatte, vice-chairman and acting chairman; Mr Gautier, rapporteur; Mr Adamou, Mr Barbagli (deputizing for Mr Colleselli), Mr Battersby, Mr Blaney, Mrs Desouches (deputizing for Mr Thareau), Mr Helms, Mrs Herklotz, Mr Hord, Mr Ligios, Mr Maher, Mr Marck, Mr McCartin (deputizing for Mr Clinton), Mr Mertens, Mr B. Nielsen, Mr Papaefstratiou (deputizing for Mr Kaloyannis), Mr Sutra, Mr Vgenopoulos and Mr Woltjer.

The opinions of the Committee on Budgets, the Committee on Energy

and Research and the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection are attached.

The report was tabled on 4 July 1983.

The Committee on Agriculture hereby submits to the European Parliament the following amendments and motion for a resolution together with explanatory statement:

Proposal from the Commission for a Council decision adopting joint research programmes and programmes coordinating agricultural research.

Amendments proposed by the
Committee on Agriculture

Text proposed by the Commission
of the European Communities

Preamble and recitals unchanged

Amendment No. 1

New recital

Whereas this decision contains an initial series of research projects which are to be carried out within the framework of this general programme and whereas the Commission is to submit further proposals for projects which are important for the agricultural sector,

Amendment No. 2

Article 1

2. The programme shall run for four years concurrently with the framework programme for science and technology activities

3. The total resources necessary for the duration of the programme are estimated at (52 m ECU). The figures are given merely as an indication.

The annual appropriations shall be fixed in accordance with the Budget procedure.

1. Unchanged

2. The programme shall run for five years from 1 January 1984

3. The total resources necessary for the duration of the programme are estimated at (The figures are given merely as an indication.

The annual appropriations shall be fixed in accordance with the Budget procedure

Articles 2 and 3 unchanged

Amendment No. 3

Article 4

On 1 July 1986 and, after conclusion of the programmes, not later than 31 July 1988 the Commission shall report to the European Parliament and the Council on the results of the activities carried out under the programmes covered by this Decision and on the use of the funds allocated for these measures.

On 1 July 1986 and, after conclusion of the programmes, not later than 31 July 1989, the Commission shall report to the European Parliament and the Council on the results of the activities carried out under the programmes covered by this Decision and on the use of the funds allocated for these measures.

Annex I

Specific measures

I. (1) and (2) unchanged

II. 1, 2 and 3 unchanged

Amendment No. 4

Insert the following:

4. Agro-economic research

The aim of this programme is to analyse Community production and sales figures on an inter-regional basis. This programme will be sub-divided as follows:

- analysis of organization: market and sales structures, legal provisions in relation to trade, transport, processing and sales organizations ;
- analysis of goods movements;
- analysis of specific products such as cereals, sugar, fruit and vegetables, meat, milk, eggs, wine and the inter-regional market balance (optimization model)
- the effects of trade in agricultural products on agriculture in the Member States: production structure, income trends, structural adjustments and international trade.
- analysis of possible ways of turning agricultural products into new or better foodstuffs, analysis of industrial needs to determine possible uses for agricultural raw materials.

Amendment No. 5

Insert the following:

'5. Research into policies

The aim of this research is to go beyond the agro-economic research and develop economic models through which the impact of policy changes on the various policy objectives of the Community's agricultural policy may be evaluated.'

Annex I, Paragraph III, (1) (a)

Amendment No. 6

There are three specific parts:

(a) Animal health

- strategic research on important diseases, especially those which hinder trade or are used as a pretext for protectionism
- immune mechanisms and disease protection
- development and harmonization of diagnostic methods
- occurrence and economics of disease control

There are three specific parts:

Animal health

- strategic research on important diseases
- immune mechanisms and disease protection
- development and harmonization of diagnostic methods
- occurrence and economics of disease control

Paragraph III, (1) (b) unchanged

Amendment No. 7

Paragraph III, (1) (c)

(c) Livestock productivity and management

- study of the physiology of reproduction in cattle, pigs and sheep
- rumen function and feeding standards
- live body composition
- improvement of biological and economic efficiency

(c) Livestock productivity and management

- reproduction in cattle, pigs and sheep
- study of the physiology of reproduction
- rumen function and feeding standards
- live body composition
- improvement of biological and economic efficiency

Amendment No. 8

New Section IV

1. Coordination of research

Over and above research currently coordinated at the Community level, the programme will institute a register of all agricultural research programmes in Member States, to be made available to cooperating bodies in order that

1. joint research programmes can be developed,
2. duplication can be avoided,
3. Member States can eventually discuss programmes in advance of commencement and draw up necessary priorities.

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 adopting joint research programmes and programmes for coordinating agricultural research

The European Parliament

- having regard to the proposal from the Commission to the Council (COM(82) 853 final)¹,
 - having been consulted by the Council pursuant to Article 43 of the EEC Treaty (Doc. 1-1183/82),
 - having regard to the report of the Committee of Agriculture and the opinions of the Committee on Budgets, the Committee on Energy and Research and the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection (Doc. 1-552/83),
 - having regard to the result of the vote on the Commission proposal,
- (a) whereas the current research programme in the agricultural sector expires at the end of 1983;
 - (b) whereas the European Parliament drew attention in the LINKOHR report (Doc. 1-654/82) to the extreme importance of agricultural research;
1. Emphasizes once again that agricultural research is a very important element in the efforts to attain the objectives set out for agriculture in the EEC Treaty;
 2. Regrets, however, that the Commission's proposals are not prefaced by a description of the major problems facing the common agricultural policy, to the solution of which research might make a contribution;
 3. Takes the view that the programmes contained in the Commission proposal constitute a balanced whole;
 4. Emphasizes the vital part played by research centres in drawing up the research programme, with the proviso that the Commission must not set up its own centres to work in competition with existing centres;

¹OJ No. C 27, 2.2.1983, p.6

5. Calls on the Commission nonetheless, pursuant to Article 149, second paragraph, of the EEC Treaty, to revise its proposals on the basis of the amendments proposed by the European Parliament;
6. Takes the view that encouragement and coordination of research into policies, for example, the development of economic models, is of major importance;
7. Considers that research into the relationship between the agricultural policy and the environmental policy should constitute a significant area of agricultural research;
8. Agrees with the proposed increase in budget appropriations for agricultural research and urges the Commission to ensure that the efficient use of these appropriations is not hampered by a lack of qualified personnel;
9. Points out that a research programme can only be effective if its results are applied in practice and that on-the-spot demonstrations and experimental applications of the findings of the programmes must be given to producers;
10. Takes the view that every research programme must be accompanied by a publicity programme to ensure that information reaches producers;
11. Calls on the Commission therefore regularly to draw up a summary of the results achieved and their practical applications and to keep the European Parliament informed thereof;
12. Urges the Commission to supervise the internal coordination of all research programmes and to avoid duplication, so as to ensure the most efficient possible utilization of financial resources;
13. Calls on the Commission to set up a register of agricultural research programmes throughout the Community for use by researchers and other appropriate bodies;
14. Requests the Commission to include among those involved in research programmes into agriculture, whether continental or Mediterranean, experts from countries which are not in the area into which the research is being done;

15. Calls on the Commission, with a view to eliminating duplication of effort, to coordinate its research with the IAMs (Mediterranean Agronomic Institutes) - existing or to be set up - with respect to everything concerning the Mediterranean basin, either in the Community itself, the applicant countries or the countries associated with the Community via various agreements;

16. Calls for the inclusion of economic studies into the possibilities and consequences of replacing surplus crops by products which are in deficit e.g.:
 - almond and pistachio trees instead of olive trees;
 - protein crops instead of sugar and cereals;
 - tobacco instead of certain vegetables, etc.;
 - either in the Community itself or in the countries associated with the Community via various agreements;

17. Considers that problems arising in the dairy sector should be the subject of a research programme containing an economic and scientific approach to the reduction of dairy surpluses;

18. Instructs its President to forward to the Council and Commission, as Parliament's opinion, the Commission proposal as voted by Parliament and the corresponding resolution.

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT1. INTRODUCTION

1. The coordination of agricultural research is expressly referred to in Article 41 of the EEC Treaty.

However, it was not until 1964 that the first coordinated research programme was set up, to study classical swine fever and African swine fever. This programme was successfully implemented between 1964 and 1971, after which the Council of Ministers adopted in 1974 a regulation on the coordination of agricultural research as an essential part of the Common Agricultural Policy.¹

Article 5 of Regulation No. 1728/74 provides that specific measures may take the form of joint projects or coordinated activities and that these measures should relate to well-defined research topics or areas.

2. In 1975 the Council adopted a three-year programme (1976 to 1978) which covered four areas:
 - beef production;
 - production of vegetable proteins;
 - effluents from intensive stock rearing;
 - animal leucoses.
3. On 31 October 1978 the Council approved a new programme to be carried out between 1 January 1979 and the end of 1983. This programme covers specific projects in the following areas:
 - land use and rural development;
 - Mediterranean agriculture;
 - agricultural waste;
 - effluents from intensive stock rearing;
 - animal pathology
 - improving the productivity of European beef herds;
 - biological pest control;
 - integrated pest control;
 - methods of improving plant resistance to disease and environmental pressures;

¹ OJ No. L 182 of 5.7.1974, p.1

- initial processing of agricultural products;
- elm disease;
- production of vegetable proteins

4. The research programmes adopted by the Council of Ministers on a proposal from the Commission and after consultation of the European Parliament are carried out under the auspices of the Commission, which is assisted in this task by the Standing Committee.

The work is divided into two categories according to the method of work:

- coordinated activities: this involves specialist meetings between relatively small groups of researchers;
- joint action: these are research projects eligible for financial aid from the Community and for which contracts are concluded with specially selected laboratories and institutes.

5. Council Decision No. 81/596/EEC of 27 July 1981 provides for an increase in the amount earmarked for the implementation of the five-year research programme from 18,602,000 ECU to 19,702,000 ECU following the enlargement of these programmes to include Greece. The European Parliament delivered a favourable opinion on this proposal in a report by Mr Papaefstratiou (Doc. 1-110/81). Since then some ten contracts have been concluded with Greek institutes, primarily for Mediterranean agriculture and biological and integrated pest control programmes.

II. Discussion of the Commission proposal

1. Content

The Commission proposal on the new five-year programme 1984- 1988 covers the following research programmes:.

- utilization and conservation of agricultural resources: energy in agriculture and land and water use and management;
- structural problems: regional problems with special reference to Mediterranean agriculture and agri-food problems;
- improvement of plant and animal productivity: animal husbandry and plant productivity.

The Commission has proposed a budget of 65m ECU for the implementation of this five year programme, to allow for new activities in the fields of biomass, energy-saving, certain aspects of sales and pilot projects. This has meant a doubling in real terms of the 19.7 m ECU budget for the current programme.

The Commission has outlined the content and objectives of each of the six research programmes in the annex to its proposal.

At roughly the same time as the present proposal the Commission also forwarded to the Council a proposal for a European 'Framework' Programme 1984-1987 for scientific and technical activities in the field of research, development and demonstration, drawn up at the request of the Council of Ministers (Doc. 1-57/83).

This programme refers not only to the major importance of the agricultural sector for Europe but also to the difficulties with which this sector is currently having to contend. One of the essential points of the programme therefore is the promotion of the competitiveness of agriculture, including fisheries.

Since the agricultural research programme under consideration here is basically an extension of the framework programme it seems logical to arrange for these two programmes to run concurrently. Consequently, it is proposed that the agricultural programme be shortened from five to four years so that both programmes are of equal duration.

2. Discussion of the proposal

The report drawn up by Mr LINKOHR on behalf of the Committee on Energy and Research on the 'Common Research Policy: problems and prospects' (Doc. 1-654/82) points out that, by comparison with the Community's powers in the agricultural sector, agricultural research has hitherto been under-developed and that agricultural research should form an important starting point for intensifying applied research for which the legal bases already exist and should emphasize the following points:

- further improvements in the quality of foodstuffs;
- reduction of the environmental impact by further developments in integrated plant protection;
- reduction of energy consumption in agriculture;

- research into and prevention of animal diseases;
- recognition of the role of nutritional science, also as a subject taught in universities, in the protection of consumers;
- study of the soil with special attention to barren regions;
- genetic studies in relation to agriculture.

At the same time the resolution draws attention to the significant contribution agricultural research can make to:

- reducing the dependence of Europe by decreasing its deficits in certain sectors (such as proteins, oils, tobacco, mutton and lamb, wood, etc.);
- reducing surpluses by enabling them to be processed;
- revitalizing insufficiently developed regions in which projects are clearly of a necessity a priority (such as the Mediterranean regions and Ireland).

The Commission's proposed research programme broadly meets the wishes of the European Parliament. It includes most of the research areas listed in the LINKOHR report.

In general, the Committee on Agriculture can therefore approve the programme proposed by the Commission. Nonetheless, it might be conducive to greater efficiency for certain research projects contained in the proposal to be incorporated in other programmes which concern themselves more directly with those subjects.

For instance the programme referred to in the annex under point 1.1.6) 'the use of crops of economic and industrial interest to produce energy from biomass' could be switched from this research programme to the general biotechnology research programme carried out by the Commission's Directorate-General XII. Furthermore, attention should be drawn to the extreme importance of research into the production of energy from animal effluent, an area in which research has already been conducted in several Member States and which has produced very promising results.

Similarly the potential applications of remote sensing, referred to under Point 1.2.(d) of the annex to the Commission proposal, are covered in the Commission's communication to the Council on the future activities of the Joint Research Centre (COM(83) 107 final). This communication

includes a section on the application of remote sensing techniques to agriculture in the developing countries. These techniques should facilitate decisions on investment aimed at improving agricultural conditions (e.g. irrigation systems), interchanging of crops and introduction of a second crop (e.g. combination of olive plantations and the production of certain earlies), while at the same time helping to assess the cost/benefit ratio and to evaluate the associated problems (e.g. socio-economic). It is therefore necessary for JRC research to be carried out in close cooperation with the Commission services responsible for agricultural research.

In addition, the Committee on Agriculture wishes to propose, in the form of amendments, certain minor changes to the annex to the Commission's proposal.

In order to evaluate the extent to which agricultural policy objectives have been attained in the Community, it is not enough simply to look at the balance of supply of agricultural products. It is also necessary to analyse Community production and marketing conditions in an inter-regional context. At the same time a detailed qualitative analysis of intra-Community trade in agricultural products and a quantitative assessment of trends need to be carried out and standards laid down with regard to market balance. The Committee on Agriculture therefore considers that a chapter on agricultural economics should be included in the research programme.

This chapter should cover the following areas:

- analysis of organizations: market and sales structures, legal provisions in relation to trade, transport, processing and sales organizations;
- analysis of goods movements;
- analysis of specific products such as cereals, sugar, fruit and vegetables, meat, milk, eggs and the inter-regional market balance (optimization model);
- the effects of trade in agricultural products on agriculture in the Member States: production structure, income trends, structural adjustments and international trade.

3. General remarks

The importance of the agricultural research programme needs no underlining. The current economic difficulties have revealed the uncertainties of a production strategy which is geared above all to the increasingly intensive utilization of the means of production. This has led to a number of difficulties primarily caused by efforts to reach or exceed a certain level of production, thereby giving rise to high costs to the common agricultural policy.

The present research programme therefore rightly draws attention to the need to take early steps to counteract the rapidly rising cost of inputs, to improve the rational use of limited natural resources, to resolve the structural problems which are giving rise to growing disparities between regions to improve the quality of foodstuffs, and so on.

However, the Commission appears to overlook in its explanatory memorandum another fundamental problem of the common agricultural policy, namely the attempt to achieve the objectives set out in the Treaty almost exclusively via price policy, instead of seeking a middle course between price and structural policy.

This emphasis on the increasingly high prices paid to producers has inevitably meant that European agricultural produce is more expensive than in other countries and this can affect all programmes which involve biomass. It is therefore debatable whether it is economically feasible to produce energy from European agricultural products at competitive prices.

4. Financing of the programmes

The Commission has proposed funding of 65 m ECU for the five-year programme, which amounts to a doubling in real terms of the 19.7 m ECU earmarked for the current programme (1979-1983).

The Committee on Agriculture agrees with this substantial increase in the amount, which is still under 2% of the total budget for research and development in the Community, although the agricultural sector accounts for a far larger share of the overall budget.

Since the Committee on Agriculture has proposed to shorten the duration of the programme to four years, it proposes accordingly that the amount be reduced by one-fifth to 52 m ECU.

It has become clear from contacts with the relevant Commission services that their current staffing levels are unlikely to be sufficient to implement the proposed programmes in their entirety.

The large number of meetings which have to be arranged as part of the coordinated projects and the follow-up of joint projects are already causing problems within the services concerned. The Committee on agriculture urges the Commission to ensure that the implementation of the proposed programme is not hampered by understaffing of the relevant departments and undertakes to support the Commission in its efforts to expand these departments where this should prove necessary.

III. Conclusion

The Commission proposal under consideration here appears to contain a number of worthwhile ideas which the Committee on Agriculture can broadly endorse.

The committee feels nonetheless that a chapter on agricultural economic research should be added, since all fundamental or applied research is clearly of little use unless the socio-economic consequences are also investigated and unless the structure of the individual markets is known.

At the same time it would seem advisable to have the agricultural research programme running concurrently with the scientific and technical strategy framework programme, to avoid the two programmes being out of phase at a certain point and reducing efficiency.

Lastly, it is important that the competent services of the Commission should have sufficient staff to administer the proposed programme without difficulty and that there should be proper coordination between the various services within the Commission.

Subject to these reservations the Committee on Agriculture approves the Commission proposal.

OPINION
(Rule 101 of the Rules of Procedure)
of the Committee on Budgets

Draftsman: Mr LOUWES

On 17 March 1983, the Committee on Budgets appointed Mr LOUWES draftsman of the opinion.

The committee considered the draft opinion at its meeting of 26 May 1983 and adopted the conclusions by 9 votes to none with one abstention.

The following took part in the vote: Mr LANGE, chairman; Mr NOTENBOOM, vice-chairman; Mr LOUWES, draftsman; Mr ABENS, Mr ARNDT, Mr BALFOUR, Mr GOUTHIER, Mr PRICE, Mr SABY and Mrs SCRIVENER.

1. The coordination of agricultural research in the Community was set up in 1974. Council Regulation 1728/74¹ lays down in Article 5 that the Council shall decide:

'(a) the coordination at Community level of certain national research activities;

(b) the implementation of joint projects designed to second or supplement work undertaken in the Member States.'

2. The current programmes were drawn up by Council Decision 78/902/EEC of 30 October 1978² for a period of five years as from 1 January 1979. This decision was supplemented in 1981 to take account of the accession of Greece (Decision 81/596/EEC of 27 July 1981)³.

These programmes, which will be terminated on 31 December 1983, were aimed at four areas of research:

- socio-structural objectives: appropriate use of land, Mediterranean agriculture, agricultural waste;

- elimination of barriers on the intra-Community agricultural markets: animal pathology;

- production efficiency;

- alternative products: vegetable protein.

3. The European Parliament attaches great importance to agricultural research. Following the LINKOHR report⁴, Parliament adopted on 18 November 1982⁵ a resolution on the Common Research Policy: problems and prospects, in which it regretted the insufficient development of research in the agricultural sector and proposed the intensification of applied research with special emphasis on consumer protection, the environment, energy and genetics.

¹ OJ No. L 182, 5.7.1974

² OJ No. L 316, 10.11.1978

³ OJ No. L 219, 5.8.1981

⁴ Doc. 1-654/82

⁵ OJ No. C 334, 20.12.1982

GENERAL GUIDELINES

4. On 21 December 1982 the Commission presented proposals for a European scientific and technical strategy¹. The proposals set out to redefine overall Community research activities around a number of options and scientific and technical goals. The areas of agricultural research involved constitute one element of the goal of 'promoting agricultural competitiveness' of the framework programme. Other elements relate to the programmes on 'Environment', 'Raw materials - wood', 'New energy sources', 'Biomolecular Engineering'.

5. While the goal by goal approach of the Commission's framework programme is to be welcomed, from the procedural point of view it is unfortunate that Parliament has to consider the different programmes relating to the same objective in random order. This scarcely enables Parliament to assess the suitability and coherence of the research activities proposed.

6. As in the past, the Commission's proposals, which relate to the period 1984-1987, make a distinction between:

- joint activities, carried out in the research centres and institutes of the Member States on the basis of research contracts;
- coordinated activities in the form of seminars, conferences, study visits and researcher-exchange programmes organized by the Commission.

Furthermore, the Commission proposes to provide financing by means of 'ad hoc' contracts for experiments and the practical application of the results of research.

7. Agricultural research is grouped around the following specific activities:

(a) Utilization and conservation of agricultural resources

1. Energy in agriculture
2. Land and water use and management.

¹ COM(82) 865 final

(b) Structural problems

1. Regional problems, with special reference to Mediterranean agriculture
2. Agro-food problems.

(c) Improvement of plant and animal productivity

1. Animal husbandry
2. Plant productivity.

8. The Committee on Budgets notes that these themes correspond to the wishes expressed by Parliament, particularly as regards the production of energy in agriculture (biomass) and the improvement of the quality of products and of the environment.

BUDGETARY ASPECTS

9. It is to be regretted that the Commission has not provided Parliament with the annual reports mentioned in Article 4 of the decision of 30 October 1978 after the 1980 financial year. The annual administrative accounts show that a number of difficulties have arisen in connection with the implementation of the current programmes, particularly as regards payments. The Commission proposes that differentiated appropriations be shown henceforth under Item 3841 in order to provide greater flexibility in the management of appropriations.

10. Generally speaking, the Commission intends to increase the share of overall research appropriations allocated to agricultural research. To this end it has proposed by way of an estimate a five-year volume of appropriations of 65 m ECU as opposed to 19.7 m ECU for the current programmes, which represents a doubling of the allocation in real terms. A table giving the tentative annual and operational costs is annexed to this opinion. It will be noted essentially that the Commission envisages the allocation of 40% of the available appropriations to operations relating to the utilization and conservation of agricultural resources, and 30% for each of the two other main categories (structural problems, improvement of plant and animal productivity).

Furthermore, three-quarters of the appropriations would be devoted to joint research activities, the rest going to coordinated and experimental activities.

11. The Committee on Budgets takes note of this information and of the fact that the annual appropriations will be fixed within the framework of the budgetary procedure.

12. The annual distribution and the financial management of the appropriations relating to the various programmes will be defined in accordance with the procedure established under Article 8 of Regulation no. 1728/74, which provides for the intervention of a management committee made up of representatives of the Member States. It is to be regretted once again that the Commission has renounced part of the responsibility attributed to it under Article 205 of the Treaty with regard to the implementation of the budget. Similarly, it is to be deplored that the Commission deems it necessary in its proposal for a decision submitted to the Council to define exactly and in a restrictive manner how it should ensure the implementation of coordinated programmes.

CONCLUSIONS

13. The Committee on Budgets:

- (a) approves as a whole the Commission's proposals, which correspond to the concerns expressed by Parliament;
- (b) regrets once again the resort to the management committee procedure, which runs counter to the provisions of Article 205 of the Treaty and undermines Parliament's powers of control over the implementation of the budget;
- (c) takes note of the financial requirements indicated by the Commission for the 1984-1988 period;
- (d) draws the attention of the Council to the undertaking of 30 June 1982 not to fix financial ceilings within the framework of regulations in order to give full significance to the budgetary procedure.

ANNEX II
ESTIMATED BREAKDOWN OF APPROPRIATIONS BY POLICY THEMES AND RESEARCH PROGRAMMES
FOR THE FIVE YEAR PERIOD 1984-1988 **ECU (*)**

Policy themes and Research programmes	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	Total per programme	Total per theme
<u>POLICY THEME I</u> <u>Utilization and conservation of agricultural resources</u>	4.400.000	4.800.000	5.200.000	5.600.000	6.000.000	-	26.000.000
1. Energy in agriculture	2.800.000	3.000.000	3.200.000	3.400.000	3.600.000	16.000.000	
2. Land and water use and management	1.600.000	1.800.000	2.000.000	2.200.000	2.400.000	10.000.000	
<u>POLICY THEME II</u>	3.300.000	3.600.000	3.900.000	4.200.000	4.500.000	-	19.500.000
3. Mediterranean agriculture	2.800.000	3.000.000	3.200.000	3.400.000	3.600.000	16.000.000	
4. Agro-food	500.000	600.000	700.000	800.000	900.000	3.500.000	
<u>POLICY THEME III</u> <u>Improvement of plant and animal productivity</u>	3.300.000	3.600.000	3.900.000	4.200.000	4.500.000	-	19.500.000
5. Animal husbandry	2.200.000	2.400.000	2.600.000	2.800.000	3.000.000	13.000.000	
6. Plant productivity	1.100.000	1.200.000	1.300.000	1.400.000	1.500.000	6.500.000	
TOTAL	11.000.000	12.000.000	13.000.000	14.000.000	15.000.000	-	65.000.000

(*) June 1982.

OPINION

(Rule 101 of the Rules of Procedure)
of the Committee on Energy and Research

Draftsman : Mr PROTOPAPADAKIS

On 16 February 1983, the Committee on Energy and Research appointed Mr PROTOPAPADAKIS draftsman.

The committee considered the draft opinion at its meetings of 16 February, 25 February and 23 March 1983 and adopted it unanimously at the last-mentioned meeting.

The following took part in the vote: Mrs Walz, chairman; Mr Gallagher and Mr Seligman, vice-chairmen; Mr Protopapadakis, draftsman; Mr Adam, Mr Bombard (deputizing for Mr Percheron), Mr Flanagan, Mr K. Fuchs, Mr Markopoulos, Mr Moreland, Mr Petronio, Mr Pintat, Mr Purvis, Mr Sassano, Mr Schinzel (deputizing for Mr Schmid), Mr Sherlock (deputizing for Mr Normanton), Sir Peter Vanneck, Mr Veronesi and Mrs Viehoff (deputizing for Mrs Théobald-Paoli).

The opinion was tabled on 24 March 1983.

I. Background

1. Scientific and technical research in the agricultural sector has up till now been based on Council decisions going back to 1974-75. Since 1979 ten 5-year 'specific measures', as they are called, or research actions in the terminology of this committee, have been implemented. These will be concluded at the end of this year.

2. Acceptance of the new proposal covering a 5-year period up to 1989 will mean partly a continuation of earlier activities and partly the implementation of new actions. The proposals for new actions, in particular, seem to be the result of :

- an attempt to solve certain structural problems in Community agriculture (surplus production, alternative/new forms of production, changes in land use and so on),
- a modified and/or more exact definition of priorities in the sphere of agricultural research, partly as a result of fixing different objectives and/or requirements from those applying when the first specific measures were established.

3. The Committee notes with satisfaction that, whereas earlier specific measures seemed more to be aimed at remedying shortcomings that had become apparent in existing research, the new actions are far more goal-oriented and better adapted to the aims of agriculture in the future and to defining its place in the economy. Thus, there is clearly a concurrence between the Community's new framework programme for science and technology and the changed priorities in the common agricultural policy, especially the promotion of the competitiveness and productivity of agriculture. From the point of view of research policy, this is extremely positive.

II. Research-policy aspects of the programme

4. This Committee further notes that, in the application of the programme, importance is attached to research-policy instruments in the shape of 'common actions' (part-Community-financed) such as contracts with leading research establishments and bodies, and pilot projects. Stress is laid on the catalytic effect of these forms of action, just as it must be

emphasized that only such projects as otherwise would not be carried out, because of financial risks, can be taken into consideration.

5. 'Coordinated activities' (seminars, conferences, exchanges of researchers) will also be used as an instrument. As it is well-known that such activities are already very common, and that the level of information in the agricultural research sector has always been comparatively high, a demand has to be made that this instrument should genuinely be used for the purpose of eliminating duplication of work and the wastage of resources (aside, of course, from normal and fruitful competition in the research field). The financial resources must be directed towards research areas of common interest (for example, biotechnology, combating disease, environmental research). It should be remembered that research by individual countries is often directed at increasing their share of the market both inside and outside the Common Market, and often at the expense of other member-countries.

6. From the point of view of research policy, the clear definition of aims (priorities) and means, the promotion of cooperation through the coordination of existing research, and Community financing for the implementation of new projects only where there is a common interest and parallel, identical projects are avoided, the proposed programme has the committee's approval and support. It would also point out that reasonable attention seems to have been paid to coordination with Community policy in other sectors, including environmental and energy policy.

III. Aspects related to energy policy

7. It is noted with interest that one of the 5-year programme's three main topics comprises actions aimed at direct or indirect energy-saving. Although it is obvious that the argument for these actions from the agricultural policy viewpoint is additional income for individual farmers and the pursuance of structural objectives, positive results from the actions will still have considerable energy-saving consequences.

8. Both the promotion of the supply of energy by means of production based on biomass (through growing energy crops or the use of refuse and by-products) and the reduction of the demand for energy through energy savings must be welcomed¹. With regard to supply in particular, attention is drawn to the importance of including biotechnology in the relevant programmes

(1) In general, cf the SELIGMAN Report on 'The use of biomass as a source of energy',
Doc. 1-460/82

9. With regard to the research-policy aspect, in order to avoid any form of duplication of work and identical or parallel projects, the Committee must quite specifically urge that work in this sector must be closely coordinated with actions carried out by the Commission's Directorates-General for Research and Energy.

V. Agricultural research at the Joint Research Centre

10. It should be pointed out that the Council has decided not to proceed with Super-Sara, which means that considerable facilities and numbers of staff will become available at the Ispra centre. The departments responsible should therefore consider how existing resources at Ispra might be used in connection with this research programme. Such use must be conditional on Ispra being the most suitable location, however, since the fact that the centre exists is not in itself a sufficient reason for the projects to be carried out there.

W. Conclusion

11. It will be evident from the above remarks that the Committee on Energy and Research is able to deliver a positive opinion on the proposal put forward by the Commission as regards the aspects relating to energy and research policies, provided that the implementing provisions relating to the content of the programmes and their administration are applied as described in the programme.

OPINION

(Rule 101 of the Rules of Procedure)
of the Committee on the Environment,
Public Health and Consumer Protection

Draftsman: Mr M. MERTENS

On 24 February 1983, the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection appointed Mr MERTENS draftsman of the opinion.

The draft opinion was considered by the committee at its meeting of 28 April 1983 and adopted unanimously.

The following were present: Mr Collins, chairman; Mrs Weber, Mr Ryan, vice-chairmen; Mr Mertens, draftsman; Mr Alber, Mr Ceravolo, Mrs Lentz-Cornette, Mr Martin (deputizing for Mrs Scrivener), Mr Muntingh, Mrs Pantazi, Mrs Schleicher, Mrs Seibel-Emmerling, Mr Sherlock, Mrs Squarcialupi, Mr Turner (deputizing for Miss Hooper) and Mrs van Hemeldonck.

1. This proposal relates to the 3rd Community research programme in the agricultural sector and is intended to cover the five-year period 1984 to 1988.

Article 43 of the EEC Treaty stipulates that the common agricultural policy shall be supported by Community research activities.

2. The first programme of this type (covering beef production, animal diseases, stock-farming effluents and vegetable proteins) was carried out in the years 1975 to 1978 and the second programme (extended to include the fields of phyto-sanitary protection, gene banks, land use, Mediterranean agriculture, food research and elm disease) in the period 1979 to 1983.

3. Under the first programme some 150 individual projects and under the second programme some 500 individual projects were carried out, in many cases with very good results, which have been exploited in the common agricultural policy and have been of immediate benefit to agriculture.

4. The draft programme now under consideration makes provision for six actions in fields considered to be priorities under the common agricultural policy:

- energy in agriculture
- land and water use and management
- regional problems (Mediterranean agriculture)
- problems relating to agriculture and foodstuffs
- stock farming and
- productivity in crop-farming.

5. These programmes were selected after detailed deliberations by the Standing Committee on Agricultural Research and constitute a compromise between all parties involved. Some countries pressed hard for the inclusion of the regional problems of the Mediterranean whereas others attached particular importance to the inclusion of programmes on energy, animal health and animal protection.

6. In all an attempt was made to select fields which, while being of particular importance to the Community, were distinct from other important areas of Community policy, for example the energy and environment research programme, so as to avoid any duplication of work.

7. Measures relating to environmental and health protection (animal diseases, agricultural waste and effluents from intensive stock rearing, integrated and biological pest control, plant resistance to disease and environmental pressure, elm disease) have already been undertaken under the first two programmes.

8. However, in recent years the focal point of research has shifted increasingly to issues relating to environmental protection also in the agricultural field. Both industrial growth and the trend towards more intensive and more technical agriculture have clashed with the conditions required for a healthy food production system and the need to protect the countryside, nature and the aquatic environment. In some spheres the level of scientific knowledge constitutes a totally inadequate basis for effective political action. The main thrust of scientific research should therefore be to remedy this shortcoming.

9. In the field of agricultural and food production particular importance should be attached for example to further examination of ways and means of promoting less chemically dependent, environmentally acceptable animal husbandry and vegetable production and also to research into heavy metal pollution of the soil, water and sewerage sludge and the reduction of nitrates in ground water.

In the field of nature protection and forestry, one priority for research should be the problem of acid effluents and the death of woodlands.

10. The Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection would have welcomed more definite main targets for the new agricultural research programme but realises that problems arise from the point of view of overlapping and coordination with research programmes in the environmental protection field.

11. The committee approves the fact that the draft programme contains measures important for environmental protection. This is particularly true as regards:

- the programme relating to energy in agriculture where measures are to be promoted which, amongst other things, involve new production, processing and management techniques which, directly or indirectly, will help to limit consumption of traditional sources of energy and at the same time will promote the production and use of biomass and energy-rich agricultural by-products,
- the improved use and management of natural land and water resources in the Community,
- the improvement of the quality of agricultural products whilst taking into consideration qualitative aspects such as hygiene and residues,
- animal health and animal protection.

However the committee foresees certain problems in the fact that all these measures are to be undertaken under the main heading 'Promotion of agricultural competitiveness'.

12. In this connection much will depend on the selection of individual projects which a special body of experts will make for each of the six proposed programmes in the course of this year.

The committee would find it gratifying if, in comparison to the previous programme, the number of individual research projects were reduced, thus ensuring that the individual measures are provided with an adequate amount of finance and that, in its task of monitoring and coordinating the measures, the Commission, with its notorious staff shortages, is not placed under excessive strain.

13. Despite the Commission's plans to raise the financial resources available for the draft programme from 19.7 million ECU to 65 million ECU (equivalent to 2% of total budgetary resources allocated to research and development), agricultural research will cost the least of the five research areas labelled as priorities by the Council of Ministers (energy, raw materials, environment, certain industrial aspects and agriculture).

Conclusions

The Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection

1. Welcomes the fact that environmental protection problems are also given attention in the framework of the agricultural research programme and endorses the proposal also to include measures having a bearing on environmental protection even though it would have welcomed still greater emphasis on the latter;
2. Notes that all research projects are to be carried out first and foremost under the heading 'Promotion of agricultural competitiveness', which, it feels, could lead to problems in the field of environmental protection;
3. Asks on the Committee on Agriculture to call on the Commission
 - (a) to take steps to ensure adequate control and coordination of the individual projects to be carried out so as to avoid duplication with work undertaken under other Community research programmes and thus an unnecessary squandering of resources,
 - (b) to press for the number of individual projects to be limited so that each project can be allocated adequate finance,
 - (c) to inform the Committee on the Environment, Public health and Consumer Protection which of the selected individual projects also have a bearing on environmental and health protection,
 - (d) when preparing this and subsequent agricultural research programmes to give even greater consideration to problems which also relate to the field of environmental and health protection, particularly those relating to residues from inorganic and organic fertilizers and pesticides.
 - (e) to examine the possibility of including research into the causes of forest damage in this programme.