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EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

# Working Documents

1982-1983

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10 November 1982

DOCUMENT 1-799/82/Annex

## Report

OPINION

of the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs

on the proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council (Doc. 1-522/82 - COM(82) 362 final) for a decision on a five-year research and development programme in the field of applied metrology and reference materials - non-nuclear indirect action (1983-1987)

Draftsman: Mr K. von WOGAU

At its meeting of 22 September 1982, the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs appointed Mr Karl von WOGAU draftsman of the opinion.

The Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs considered the Commission proposal and the draft opinion at its meeting of 3 November 1982 and adopted its opinion unanimously.

The following took part in the vote: Mr Moreau, chairman; Mr Beazley, Mr von Bismarck, Mr Bonaccini, Mr Delorozoy, Mrs Desouches, Mr de Ferranti, Mr Herman, Mr Leonardi, Mr Mihr, Mrs Nielsen (deputizing for Mr De Gucht), Mr Papantoniou, Mr Purvis (deputizing for Sir Brandon Rhys Williams), Mr Rogalla (deputizing for Mr Walter), Mr Wagner, Mr Wedeking (deputizing for Mr Schnitker) and Mr Welsh.

1. The Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs is agreed that, having regard inter alia to the wish to abolish technical trade barriers, it would be expedient to implement a research and development programme with the proposed content. It would enhance the possibility of a uniform quality control and thereby affect European industry's competitiveness on both internal and external markets.

The programme is of a technical and scientific nature and does not directly involve any standardization work, though it may be regarded as a preliminary to subsequent standardization assignments.

2. The Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs has considered whether it is expedient to conduct/coöordinate this work within the Commission or whether, instead, it should be delegated to another body.

It should here be noted that, in recent years, the European Parliament has been increasingly anxious that removal of technical trade barriers should as far as ever possible be based on existing agreements on international technical standards or on entrusting the international standardization bodies with formulation of the requisite technical standards. This explains why the European Parliament, and the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs in particular, are opposed to transferring standardizing functions of this type to the Commission, which has other duties to perform.

The Commission will therefore need to be able to demonstrate convincingly that it is necessary for the research and development programme in question to be conducted by the Commission's own services.

The Commission has established that this work must be conducted by its own services, since there is no body to which the task can be delegated; only a limited increase in staff is necessary (four A and two C officials), and the Commission will eventually be in a position to obtain compensatory revenue from the sale of reference materials, etc.

#### Conclusion

3. In view of the above, the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs supports the Commission's proposal.