



COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
GENERAL SECRETARIAT



PRESS RELEASE

384th meeting of the Council

- Research -

Brussels, 24 February 1976

President: Mr Marcel MART
Minister for Economic Affairs
of the Grand-Duchy of Luxembourg

24.II.76

Netherlands:

Mr F.H.P. TRIP

Minister for Research

Mr Laurens Jan BRINKHORST

State Secretary,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

United Kingdom:

Mr Alexander MADIE

Parliamentary Under-Secretary,
Department of Energy

Mr Neil CARMICHAEL

Parliamentary Under-Secretary,
Department of Industry

Commission:

Mr Guido BRUNNER

Member

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BIOLOGY AND HEALTH PROTECTION PROGRAMME

The Council signified its agreement to a multi-annual Community research programme 1976-1980 in the field of biology health protection.

The aim of the programme is to supplement, extend and further scientific and technical know-how necessary for assessing and updating permissible human radiation levels and the contamination levels of the various environmental components and, secondly, to improve the practical organization of radio protection by Member States.

This objective will entail carrying out studies on the effects of radio-active contamination on man and the environment the effects of radiation on living matter, methods and dosimetry.

These projects will for the most part be carried out by means of association or cost-sharing contracts and in part by the Commission Biology Group at Ispra.

A total of 39 million units of account has been earmarked for this programme; the staff complement is set at 68.

The Council has not yet taken any decision as regards the programme on applications.

The Commission reserved the right to examine the possibility of including such action under general agricultural research.

ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

The Council signified its agreement to the multi-annual environmental research and development programme of the European Economic Community covering a five-year period as from 1 January 1976. This involves indirect action, which signifies that the research work will be carried out by means of contract.

The main aim of such research work will be to acquire the scientific and technical know-how necessary for implementation of the environmental programme of the European Communities. It will cover the following four areas:

- research designed to establish criteria (exposure/effect ratios) for pollutants and potentially toxic chemicals;
- research and development on environmental information management, with particular reference to chemicals likely to contaminate the environment (ECDIN project);
- research and development on the reduction and prevention of pollutants and nuisances, including the application of "clean" technologies;
- research and development related to the protection and improvement of the natural environment.

Certain studies of a general nature may also be undertaken.

An amount of 16 million units of account has been earmarked for this programme; the staff complement is set at 10.

PROGRAMME FOR REFERENCE MATERIALS AND METHODS

The Council recorded its agreement to the EEC multi-annual research programme - 5 years as from 1 January 1976 - for reference materials and methods (Community Bureau of Reference). This is an indirect action and hence the necessary surveys and laboratory activities will be carried out under contract.

The aim of the programme will be to strengthen, co-ordinate, harmonize and supplement national efforts in the field of reference materials and methods of measurement.

The aim is to include:

- characterization of materials;
- inventory and definition of requirements for new certified reference materials (CRM);
- technical specifications of CRM;
- perfecting and preparation of CRM;
- organization of inter-laboratory comparisons;
- European certification of the technical characteristics of CRM;
- approval of laboratories and
the activities of a Secretariat.

A maximum of 2.7 million units of account and a staff of 7 will be allocated to this objective.

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The three indirect programmes on which the Council has recorded its agreement include a review clause for their harmonization, if necessary, with the new programme for direct actions, from the beginning of 1977 at the latest.

THERMONUCLEAR FUSION PROGRAMME

The Council conducted a detailed examination of the various aspects of the multi-annual Community programme for 1976 to 1980 in the field of controlled thermo-nuclear and plasma physics. At the conclusion of its discussions the Council reached agreement on the basic features of the programme, including the budget of 124 MUA, leaving aside the section concerning the JET project. It was agreed that this programme would be implemented within the limit of the 1976 tranche of 20.8 MUA.

As regards the JET project, which is of particular importance as regards controlled thermo-nuclear fusion, the Council, despite a measure of progress as regards the budget involved, was unable to reach a final decision on the location of the project.

It was therefore agreed that discussions on the matter would be continued at the next meeting on research questions on 18 June.

The Council agreed to set up an Advisory Committee on the fusion programme.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Decision authorizing the extension or tacit renewal of certain trade agreements concluded between the Member States and third countries.

The Council adopted the substance of the Regulation concluding the Agreement between the European Economic Community and Hong Kong on trade in textiles.

The Council authorized the Commission to open negotiations on textiles with the Arab Republic of Egypt and Thailand and adopted negotiating directives to that end.

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Decisions authorizing Ireland to adopt safeguard measures in respect of shoes having natural leather uppers imported from Finland, Iceland, Austria, Norway, Switzerland and Sweden.

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Regulations

- extending to other products the Annex to Regulation (EEC) No 109/70 establishing common rules for imports from State-trading countries;
- adding new products to Column 2 of the list contained in Annex I to Regulation (EEC) No 1439/74 on common rules for imports.

The Council also adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Regulation suspending application of the condition on prices governing the importation into the Community of fresh lemons originating in Cyprus, Spain, Israel, Morocco, the Arab Republic of Egypt, Tunisia and Turkey in accordance with agreements between the European Economic Community and each of these countries.

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Acting on a proposal by the French Government the Council appointed Mr COURSAULT-DURAND, Deputy Director, Sub-Directorate for Industrial Accidents, **Special Schemes and Mutual Insurance, Ministry of Labour**, as full member of the Advisory Committee on Safety, Hygiene and Health Protection at Work in place of Mrs NETTER, who has resigned, for the remainder of the latter's term of office, viz. until 4 May 1978.

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Acting on a proposal by the French Government the Council appointed Mr P. LEONARDI a member of the Advisory Committee of the Euratom Supply Agency in place of Mr Y. GIRARD, who has resigned, for the remainder of the latter's term of office, viz. until 31 December 1976.

**COMMISSION
DES
COMMUNAUTÉS EUROPEENNES**
GRUPE DU PORTE-PAROLE

Bruxelles , le 24 février 1976

LK/sg

remis au telex à: 18440

PRIORITE' P-1

Note BIO (76) 64 aux Bureaux Nationaux
c.c. aux Membres du Groupe et à MM. les Directeurs Généraux des DG I et X

CONSEIL RECHERCHE

Le Conseil a débuté à 10h30 sous la présidence du ministre luxembourgeois de l'énergie, M. Mart. Quatre points figuraient à l'ordre du jour: adoption de 4 programmes indirects de recherche:

- biologie-protection sanitaire
- environnement
- matériaux et méthodes de référence
- fusion

Ainsi que vous le savez, ces 4 programmes de recherche, faisaient déjà partie de l'ordre du jour du Conseil du 15.12.1975. Le dernier point avait été discuté, mais pas adopté, étant donné que la délégation italienne ne voulait pas adopter le programme de fusion sans, en même temps, décider du site du JET. Les 3 autres points n'avaient pas été discutés, faute de quorum (voir BIO (75)378).

Ce matin, le Conseil a adopté -compte tenu d'une réserve italienne de soumettre ces programmes à révision au bout d'une année - deux programmes:

- environnement et
- matériaux et méthodes de référence

Toutefois, les montants prévus par la Commission ont été réduits ainsi que le nombre des agents. Le programme environnement sera doté de 16 MUC et de 10 agents; le programme matériaux et méthodes de référence de 2,7 MUC et de 7 agents (pour les montants initialement prévus, voir P/43/75).

Aucune décision encore au sujet du programme "environnement" qui pourrait être adopté.

Pour ce qui concerne le JET et le programme "fusion", le Conseil s'est réuni à partir de 1j h en restreinte et même en superrestreinte à partir de 17h30. A l'heure où nous envoyons ce telex, rien n'a filtré sur ces délibérations, et l'on s'attend à une longue séance de nuit.

A suivre demain,

Amitiés,


Paul CLRF



COMMISSION
DES
COMMUNAUTÉS EUROPEENNES
GROUPE DU PORTE-PAROLE

Bruxelles....., le 25 février 1976
LK/kg

remis au télex à : 216.

PRIORITE P - 1

Note BIO(76) 64 (suite 1 et fin) aux Bureaux Nationaux
c.c. aux Membres du Groupe et à MM. les Directeurs Généraux des DG I et X

CONSEIL RECHERCHE

Attention: lire à l'avant-dernier paragraphe de la BIO(76) 64 d'hier "au sujet du programme biologie-protection sanitaire" au lieu de ".....au sujet du programme environnement".

Le Conseil a recommencé en séance ouverte à 23h. Jusqu'à la fin, vers 2h.30, il est parvenu aux résultats suivants:

Environnement et BCR: Adoption des deux programmes (voir BIO d'hier) avec clause de révision, celle-ci pour assurer l'harmonisation de l'action indirecte avec l'action directe. La révision devra parvenir au plus tard au début de 1977. Faute de décision sur la révision, les programmes seront poursuivis tels quels. Ceci garantit la continuité des programmes.

Biologie-protection sanitaire: Adoption de la partie "radioprotection". Enveloppe financière 39 MUC, 68 agents. Même clause de révision comme pour les deux autres programmes. La partie "applications dans l'agriculture" du programme n'a pas été adoptée mais au contraire annulée.

Fusion: Seul le principe du programme Fusion a été adopté. Véritable adoption du programme seulement pour la partie qui n'est pas liée au JET. Enveloppe financière pour cette partie 124 MUC, dont on ne débloque pour le moment que les crédits nécessaires pour son exécution en 1976 (20,8 MUC).

La partie JET du programme (sans s'engager, on avait néanmoins fixé son enveloppe financière à 108 MUC) n'a pas été adoptée, parce que la délégation italienne insistait sur une décision parallèle sur le site du JET, ce que les autres délégations refusaient. Le Conseil a fixé sa prochaine réunion pour le 18 juin 1976. Il a pris acte de ce que la Commission va, pour cette réunion, compléter ses études et considérations sur le site du JET, sur base d'un rapport à élaborer par un nouveau Comité Consultatif Fusion. En effet, quelques délégations (pas l'Italie) étaient d'avis qu'on pourrait encore approfondir certains aspects dans les études sur le site. On ne peut qu'espérer que le Conseil du 18 juin prendra une décision sur le site du JET et le reste du programme, ce qui débloquerait en même temps les crédits.

DIS: M. Brunner a laissé entendre que l'avis de la Commission sur le site du JET ne changera certainement pas sur base d'un rapport complémentaire. FIN DIS

M. Brunner fera ce matin une conférence de presse sur les résultats du Conseil (Bio à suivre).

Amitiés

B. OLIVI

