COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
GENERAL SECRETARIAT

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8045/83 (Presse 121)

861st Council meeting

- Research -

Luxembourg, 28 June 1983

President: Mr Heinz RIESENHUBER,
Federal Minister for Research and
Technology of the
Federal Republic of Germany

The Governments of the Member States and the Commission of the European Communities were represented as follows:

Belgium:

Mr Paul NOTERDAEME
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Denmark:

Mr Bertel HAARDER
Minister for Education

Germany:

Mr Heinz RIESENHUBER
Federal Minister for Research and Technology

Mr H-H. HAUNSCHILD
State Secretary, Federal Ministry of Research and Technology

Greece:

Mr George LIANIS
Minister for Research and Technology

Mr D. RAPAKOULIAS
State Secretary for Research

France:

Mr Laurent FABIUS
Minister for Industry, Research, Energy and Posts and Telecommunications

Ireland:

Mr Eddie COLLINS
Minister of State
Department of Industry and Energy

Italy:

Mr Paolo GALLI
Deputy Permanent Representative

Luxembourg:

Mr Josy BARTHEL
Minister for Energy

Netherlands:

Mr W.F. van EEKELEN
State Secretary
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
(with responsibility for European Affairs)

United Kingdom:

Mr David TRIPPIER
Under-Secretary of State
Department of Trade and Industry

For the Commission:

Mr Etienne DAVIGNON
Vice-President

FORECASTING AND ASSESSMENT IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY 1983-1987 - FAST II

The Council reached substantive agreement - one delegation still upholding a reservation at this stage - on a decision adopting a second research programme for the European Economic Community on forecasting and assessment in science and technology, 1983-1987.

In adopting this FAST II (Forecasting and Assessment in Science and Technology) programme the Council based itself on the largely positive assessment of the results of the FAST I programme (1978-1983) and confirmed that it was still the purpose of the programme to analyse the long-term implications of technological change for European societies. Its aim was to abstract from this analysis guidelines and concrete proposals for the Community's science and technology policy, and to highlight the consequences of technological change for the Community's other policies.

The activity of the programme will concentrate on three main fields:

- new forms of growth for Europe (in particular possible contributions by new technologies to solving work and employment problems, and integrated development of renewable natural resource systems);
- transformation of service activities and technological change (problems and opportunities for Europe in this sphere of crucial long-term importance);
- new strategic industrial systems; analysis of the impact on the future of the people of Europe of, in particular, the communications industries (audiovisual, cable networks, telecommunications) and the agri-food industries.

To develop this research, the programme will have a team of twelve scientists, and a total budget of 8,5 MECU, ensuring by means of study contracts, the collaboration of the best prospective research teams in Europe.

The programme will also be supported by information and co-operation networks to be set up within Community and national administrations and the scientific circles concerned.

Finally, the programme will have the special feature of visiting fellows seconded to the Commission for a period of time from their governmental or scientific institutions.

EVALUATION OF THE RESULTS OF COMMUNITY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES

The Council reached substantive agreement - one delegation still maintaining a reservation at this stage - on a Resolution on a Community plan of action relating to the evaluation of Community research and development programmes.

This Resolution is a follow-up to a request made by the Council to the Commission in 1979 to develop an appropriate system for evaluating the results of Community R & D programmes. The Commission's response was to submit a communication to the Council containing a three-year plan of action which the Council noted with appreciation, recognizing in particular the validity of the Commission's intended methodological approach.

The plan of action - which should play a key role in the implementation and periodic review of the framework programme for the Community's scientific and technical activities - was worked out on the basis of the experience gained through a series of evaluation test cases during an experimental phase.

The methodology is based on the principle of an ex-post assessment of R & D programmes, performed programme by programme by external groups of independent experts.

The aims of the evaluation cover the assessment of the scientific and technical achievements of the R & D programmes, their contribution in socio-economic terms and an analysis of the effectiveness of their management. At the same time, on the basis of the ex-post evaluation, recommendations will be made on future orientation.

The plan of action covers a period of three years (1983-1985) during which, in addition to the programme evaluations, there will be a series of parallel activities including studies on methodological aspects, the encouragement of research in this sphere and the promotion of information exchanges within the Community.

At the end of this phase the Commission will, if appropriate on the basis of the experience gained, submit a further communication to the Council concerning the implementation of a fully operational evaluation system applicable to all the Community's R & D programmes.

MULTIANNUAL PROGRAMME OF THE JOINT RESEARCH CENTRE 1984-1987

Following an introductory statement by Vice-President DAVIGNON, the Council held a preliminary discussion of the proposal for a multiannual programme for the JRC for 1984-1987 which the Commission had submitted to it in accordance with the conclusions of the Council meeting on research on 10 March 1983.

The discussions confirmed the intention expressed by the Council on 10 March 1983 to see the JRC continue to play a central role in the Community's research strategy, and to this end to provide it with the necessary financial and staffing resources to carry out its task.

In the light of these principles the delegations made their general assessments of the structure of the proposed programme and also put forward specific comments on the points of the programme in which they were particularly interested.

In conclusion, the Council instructed its preparatory bodies to examine all the technical aspects of the programme, in the light of the conclusions of 10 March and the comments made by delegations at the present meeting, so that the Council could successfully complete its work on the JRC programme at its October meeting.

FRAMEWORK PROGRAMMES FOR COMMUNITY RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT AND DEMONSTRATION ACTIVITIES AND A FIRST FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME COVERING THE PERIOD 1984-1987

The Council recorded its agreement on a Resolution:

- setting up a new instrument for implementing the Community's research, development and demonstration strategy. This new instrument consists of four-yearly framework programmes setting out the goals, criteria and financial targets of the Community to guide the Commission and the Council in the planning, deciding and financing of specific R, D & D activities for the periods covered;

- containing a first framework programme for 1984 to 1987.

This Resolution is the first concrete embodiment of the guidelines laid down by the European Council in Stuttgart for the development and increased efficiency of Community action in the sphere of research, innovation and new technology. It represents an important political commitment by the Council in the field of science and technology.

In the framework programme for 1984 to 1987, the Council approved the scientific and technical objectives and the selection criteria set out in Annexes I and II respectively.

The Council confirmed its agreement on the need to increase Community expenditure on R, D & D. Bearing in mind the need to develop Community policies, but awaiting the results of the general discussion on the Community's resources and policies, the Council noted at this stage the financial targets relating to the objectives to be attained during the period 1984-1987 (Annex III). These targets are to serve as a guide for Commission planning and for the adoption by the Council of specific R, D & D activities during that period.

These objectives and criteria and the financial targets to be specified constitute the elements on which implementation of the 1984-1987 framework programme will be based.

It was agreed that the planning and adoption of the programmes would take financial constraints into account.

ANNEX I

Scientific and technical objectives for the period 1984-1987

1. Promoting agricultural competitiveness
   - developing agricultural productivity and improving products: agriculture
     fisheries

2. Promoting industrial competitiveness
   - removing and reducing barriers
   - new techniques and products for the traditional industries
   - new technologies

3. Improving the management of raw materials

4. Improving the management of energy resources
   - developing nuclear fission energy
   - controlled thermonuclear fusion
   - developing renewable energy sources
   - rational use of energy

5. Stepping up development aid

6. Improving living and working conditions
   - improving safety and protecting health
   - protecting the environment

7. Improving the effectiveness of the Community's scientific and technical potential
   - Horizontal action

ANNEX II

C R I T E R I A

In general, when selecting Community activities on the basis of the scientific and technical objectives adopted special attention should be given after assessment of their scientific and technical values to activities which contribute to the definition or implementation of Community policies.

In these fields, Community action can be justified where it presents advantages (added value) in the short, medium or long term from the point of view of efficiency and financing or from the scientific and technical point of view as compared with national activities (public or private).

More specifically, Community action can be justified in the following cases:

- research on a very large scale for which the individual Member States could not or could only with difficulty provide the necessary finance and personnel,
- research the joint execution of which would offer obvious financial benefits, even after taking account of the extra costs inherent in all international co-operation,
- research which, because of the complementary nature of work being done nationally in part of a given field, enables significant results to be obtained in the Community as a whole for the case of problems whose solution requires research on a large scale, particularly geographical,
- research which helps to strengthen the cohesion of the common market and to unify the European scientific and technical area, and research, there where the need is felt, leading to the establishment of uniform standards.

ANNEX III

Table summarizing the objectives and financial targets for the period 1984-1987

	MECU (*)	%
1. Promoting agricultural competitiveness	130	3,5
- developing agricultural productivity and improving products: agriculture	115	
fisheries	15	
2. Promoting industrial competitiveness	1 060	28,2
- removing and reducing barriers	30	
- new techniques and products for the traditional industries	350	
- new technologies	680	
3. Improving the management of raw materials	80	2,1
4. Improving the management of energy resources	1 770	47,2
- developing nuclear fission energy	460	
- controlled thermonuclear fusion	480	
- developing renewable energy sources	310	
- rational use of energy	520	
5. Stepping up development aid	150	4,0
6. Improving living and working conditions	385	10,3
- improving safety and protecting health	190	
- protecting the environment	195	
7. Improving the effectiveness of the Community's scientific and technical potential	85	2,3(**)
- Horizontal action	90	2,9
	3 750	100,0

(*) in ECU at 1982 constant value
(**) corresponds to 5% by the end of the period

STIMULATION OF THE EFFICACY OF SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL POTENTIAL

The Council passed a Decision adopting an experimental Community action to stimulate the efficacy of the European Economic Community's scientific and technical potential.

This two-year experimental action beginning on 1 July 1983, with an estimated budget of 7 MECU, comes under the heading of one of the major options of the framework programme, namely improving the scientific competitiveness of the Community, and is aimed at testing and specifying appropriate means to that end.

During this two-year period, the Commission will provide Community support through research allocations, grants to help laboratory twinning, development contracts and grants to assist research teams, seminars and courses for multi- or inter-disciplinary activities for which joint work at multinational level is necessary or preferable. The choice of stimulatory activities will be made by the Commission with the help of CODEST (Committee for the European Development of Science and Technology) and by making use of a "peer review" system to judge the scientific and technical merit of projects.

The activities will concern in the main the following seven areas:

- Pharmacobiology: application of new developments in cellular and molecular biology.

- Solid state physics: structure phenomena and processes of fabricating composite materials.

- Optics: application of modern techniques of mathematical analyses to various problems in the field of optics.

- Combustion: approach to ignition phenomena (behaviour of material under combustion conditions).

- Photometry/photoacoustics: application to the field of non-destructive analysis.

- Climatology: transitory phenomena.

- Interface phenomena.

The results of this experimental action will be used to determine the implementing details and financial allocation of the stimulatory action which is then to be carried out under the framework programme, as already agreed in principle by the Council in June 1982.

ESPRIT PROGRAMME - NEW INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Following an introductory statement by Vice-President DAVIGNON, the Council examined certain key questions raised by the Commission proposal relating to a first strategic European research and development programme on information technology - that is, in particular, the aims of the ESPRIT programme, the financial and staffing resources necessary to attain them, the arrangements for implementing the programme and its management structures.

All delegations, in line with the conclusions of the European Council in Stuttgart on the matter, confirmed their agreement on the basic strategy of the ESPRIT programme - the pilot phase of which started at the beginning of this year following the Council Decision of 21 December 1982 and is so far developing encouragingly.

Concluding the debate, the Council instructed its preparatory bodies to continue actively examining the technical aspects of the matter so that the Council could take the necessary decisions before the end of the year to carry out this exemplary action for the Community.

RAW MATERIALS - URANIUM

The Council passed a Decision adopting a research and development programme (1983-1985) in the raw materials sector.

The aim of this Decision is to incorporate in the sectoral programme for raw materials (1982-1985), and more specifically in the sub-programme on "metals and mineral substances", certain research and development activities relating to uranium exploration (measuring techniques relating to uranium and its decay products) which stem from a programme implemented in 1978.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Agriculture

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

- Regulation amending Regulation (EEC) No 1362/78 on the programme for the acceleration and guidance of collective irrigation works in the Mezzogiorno;

- Regulation fixing the maximum percentage of the aid for bee-keeping which may be devoted to the purchase of feeding sugar for the 1983/1984 marketing year

Customs Union

The Council adopted, in the official languages of the Communities, the Regulation increasing the Community tariff quotas opened for 1983 for certain qualities of ferro-chromium falling within subheading ex 73.02 E I of the Common Customs Tariff.

ECSC

The Council gave its assent pursuant to Article 56(2)(a) of the ECSC Treaty as regards Bristol Myers Co Ltd, United Kingdom.

Appointment

The Council adopted, in the official languages of the Communities, the Decision appointing Mr M.W. SMART as a full member of the Committee of the European Social Fund to replace Mr W.R.B. ROBINSON, a full member who has resigned, for the remainder of his term of office, i.e. until 23 May 1985.

Bruxelles, le 27 juin 1983

NOTE BIO (83) 293 AUX BUREAUX NATIONAUX
C.C. AUX MEMBRES DU GROUPE DU PORTE-PAROLE

RENDEZ-VOUS DE MIDI DU 27 JUIN 1983 (Willy HELIN)

SUJETS TRAITES

PREPARATION CONSEIL RECHERCHE (28.6.83 a Luxembourg)

Les points essentiels en discussion au Conseil concernent le programme-cadre 84/87 qui a fait l'objet d'une note P-41 ainsi que le programme ESPRIT (cf. P-40). Ces deux notes exhaustives resument le debat. En principe le Conseil doit approuver une resolution de caractere politique sur l'avenir de la strategie de R&D europeen.

MATERIEL DISTRIBUE

IP 225 - Communique de presse commun: visite officielle a la Commission du President de la Republique togolaise, le General Eyadema
IP 226 - Le demarrage du JET
MEMO 77- Protection de documents a caractere juridique dans le cadre de l'application des regles de concurrence
Discours de M. DALSAGER devant la Federation internationale des journalistes agricoles, Aarhus

ATTENTION CORRIGENDUM :
Note P - 61 : lire dans l'encadrement, 8eme ligne JO C 165 au lieu de JO C 166.

Amities,
Manuel SANTARELLI /COMEUR/ 17.30

NOTE E I O (83) 295 AUX BUREAUX NATIONAUX
CC. AUX MEMBRES DU GROUPE DU PORTE-PAROLE

C O N S E I L R E C H E R C H E (W. HELIN)

UN PAS POLITIQUE IMPORTANT A ETE FRANCHI MARDI A LUXEMBOURG EN MATIERE DE STRATEGIE DE RECHERCHE. EN EFFET LES DIX ONT APPROUVE LES OBJECTIFS SCIENTIFIQUES ET TECHNIQUES POUR LA PERIODE 1984/1987 PRESENTES PAR LA COMMISSION (VOIR P-40); ET ILS ONT CONFIRME QU'IL EST INDISPENSABLE D'ACCROITRE LES DEPENSES COMMUNAUTAIRES EN MATIERE DE RECHERCHE ET DEVELOPPEMENT.
EN RAISON TOUTEFOIS DU DEBAT GENERAL SUR LES RESSOURCES ET LES POLITIQUES DE LA COMMUNAUTE QUE LE CONSEIL EUROPEEN DE STUTTGART A SOUHAITE; UNE DECISION DEFINITIVE QUANT A L'ENVELOPPE FINANCIERE GLOBALE DESTINEE AU PROGRAMME DE RECHERCHE NE POURRA INTERVENIR QU'APRES LA REUNION DES CHEFS D'ETAT ET DE GOUVERNEMENT DU 6 DECEMBRE PROCHAIN A ATHENES.

AUTRE DECISION POLITIQUE IMPORTANTE : L'ACCEUIL FAVORABLE RESERVE PAR LES DIX A LA STRATEGIE DE RATTRAPAGE PROPOSEE PAR LA COMMISSION EUROPEENNE DANS LE SECTEUR DES NOUVELLES TECHNOLOGIES DE L'INFORMATION. (VOIR A CE SUJET LA NOTE P-40). LES DIX ONT NOTE QUE LA PHASE PILOTE DU PROGRAMME ESPRIT SE DEROULE DE MANIERE TRES ENCOURAGEANTE ET ONT DECIDE QUE TOUT SERA MIS EN OEUVRE AFIN DE FAIRE DEMARRER LE PROGRAMME PRINCIPAL AU 1ER JANVIER PROCHAIN.

AMITIES

W. H E L I N

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