

PRESS RELEASE

10647/93 (Presse 221)

1716th Council meeting

- RESEARCH -

Brussels, 6 December 1993

President:

Mr Jean-Maurice DEHOUSSE,

**Minister for Science Policy and Scientific
and Cultural Institutions of the Kingdom of
Belgium**

**Includes continuation of 1716th meeting, 22 December 1993*

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

Belgium:

Mr Jean-Maurice DEHOUSSE Minister for Science Policy and Scientific and Cultural Institutions
 Mr Luc VAN den BRANDE Chairman of the Flemish Community Executive

Denmark:

Mr Svend BERGSTEIN Minister for Research and Technology
 Mr Knud LARSEN State Secretary, Ministry of Research and Technology

Germany:

Mr Paul KRÜGER Minister for Research and Technology

Greece:

Mr Constantin SIMITIS Minister for Industry, Energy and Technology

Spain:

Mr Elias FERERES State Secretary for the Universities and Research

France:

Mr François FILLON Minister for Higher Education and Research

Ireland:

Mr Seamus BRENNAN Minister for Science and Technology

Italy:

Mr Umberto COLOMBO Minister for Scientific Research

Luxembourg:

Mr Marc FISCHBACH Minister for Education and Scientific Research

Netherlands:

Mr J.E. ANDRIESSEN Minister for Economic Affairs
 Mr M.J. COHEN State Secretary, Ministry of Education

Portugal:

Mr Luis VALENTE DE OLIVEIRA Minister for Territorial Planning and Management
 Mr Manuel FERNANDES THOMAZ State Secretary for Science and Technology

United Kingdom:

Mr William WALDEGRAVE Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster with responsibility for Science

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Commission:

Mr Martin BANGEMANN Member
 Mr Antonio RUBERTI Member

EC AND EURATOM FRAMEWORK PROGRAMMES OF RESEARCH (1994–1998)

The Council discussed in great detail the remaining points still unresolved concerning the proposals on the respective framework programmes of research (1994–1998) of the European Community and Euratom.

There was unanimous agreement on the shares for each of the Activities envisaged and on the breakdown between the themes of the First Activity (see table below), but opinions still differed over:

- the overall amount

- the role of the JRCs in the framework programmes.

In the light of the discussion, the Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to report back on the two points still unresolved and on the proposed breakdown within each heading, with the aim of achieving an overall agreement on all aspects of the framework programmes before the end of the year.

The Presidency indicated that the question of the overall amount could be raised at the European Council meeting on 9 and 10 December 1993.

FRAMEWORK PROGRAMMES (1994 to 1998)
BREAKDOWN IN PERCENTAGE TERMS

	Percentage
First Activity (Research, Technological Development and Demonstration Programmes)	87,3
Second Activity (Co-operation with Third Countries and International Organizations)	4,0
Third Activity (Dissemination and Optimization of Results)	2,5
Fourth Activity (Stimulation of the Training and Mobility of Researchers)	6,2
MAXIMUM OVERALL AMOUNT	[]

Indicative breakdown of the themes and subjects
in the First Activity

A. Information and Communication Technologies	28,2
1. Telematics	[]
2. Communication technologies	[]
3. Information technologies	[]
B. Industrial Technologies	16,0
4. Industrial and materials technologies	[]
5. Measurements and testing	[]
C. Environment	9,0
6. Environment and climate	[]
7. Marine sciences and technologies	[]
D. Life Sciences and Technologies	13,1
8. Biotechnology	[]
9. Biomedicine and health	[]
10. Agriculture and fisheries (including agro-industries, food technologies, forestry, aquaculture and rural development)	[]
E. 11. Non-nuclear Energy	18,15
F. 12. Transport	2,0
G. 13. Targeted socio-economic research	0,85

	[]

Ref: BIO/93/300/1

RESEARCH COUNCIL OF 6 DECEMBER 1993

Après des discussions qui auront dure pratiquement toute la journée, les Douze ont réussi à se mettre d'accord sur une ventilation en pourcentages des ressources à affecter aux différentes Actions du IVème Programme Cadre.

Il a ainsi été décidé d'affecter :

- 87,3 % Action I (programmes de recherche) + 1 % pour des activités de diffusion et de valorisation au sein de cette Action
- 4 % Action II (cooperation internationale)
- 2,5 % Action III (diffusion et valorisation des résultats)
- 6,2 % Action IV (mobilité et formation des chercheurs).

Au sein de l'Action I, il a été décidé de ventiler les ressources comme suit :

- 28,2 % technologies de l'information et des communications
- 16 % technologies industrielles
- 9 % environnement
- 13,1 % sciences et technologies du vivant
- 18,15 % énergie
- 2 % transports
- 0,85 % recherche socio-économique.

Cet accord ne sera toutefois effectif que lorsque les Douze auront pu trouver un accord sur le montant global à affecter au Programme. Sur ce point, malgré les efforts déployés par la Présidence, un accord n'a pas pu être trouvé. La Présidence a annoncé son intention de porter cette question à l'attention des Chefs d'Etat et de Gouvernement lors du Conseil Européen de Bruxelles de cette semaine et de convoquer une autre réunion des Ministres de la Recherche pour l'adoption d'une position commune sur le IVème Programme Cadre avant la fin de l'année.

Intervenant lors de la conférence de presse de clôture, le Commissaire Antonio RUBERTI a souligné la nécessité d'une décision rapide sur le Programme Cadre pour éviter une rupture de l'effort de recherche communautaire et a rappelé l'importance pour l'Europe, malgré la situation économique difficile qu'elle traverse, d'investir dans la RDT pour renforcer son système productif et par là la compétitivité de l'ensemble du système industriel européen.

Sur le rôle et le fonctionnement du CCR, les Ministres ont décidé de charger le COREPER de poursuivre les réflexions afin d'être en mesure de conclure sur ce point lors de leur prochaine réunion.

En point A, les Douze ont adopté le mandat de négociations pour le Protocole 2 d'ITER.

Ref: BIO/93/300

DATE DOCUMENT : 93/12/03

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PREPARATION RESEARCH COUNCIL OF 6 DECEMBER 1993

Le Conseil entamera ses travaux a partir de 10h sous la Presidence du Ministre belge de la Politique Scientifique et des Institutions scientifiques et culturelles, M. Jean-Marie DEHOUSSE.

Le principal point de substance figurant a son ordre du jour est la proposition de la Commission pour le IVeme Programme Cadre de RDT de la CE (1994-1998) (voir notes P(93)25 et 45).

Les Douze tenteront lundi de degager un accord sur ce IVeme Programme Cadre et poursuivront a cette fin les travaux entames sur ce texte lors de leur session du 11 octobre.

Leurs discussions porteront essentiellement sur le montant global a allouer a ce IVeme Programme Cadre, sur la ventilation de ce montant et sur le role du Centre Commun de Recherche (CCR).

Destine a couvrir la totalite de l'effort de recherche communautaire pour les annees 1994 a 1998, le IVeme Programme Cadre devrait etre dote, selon la Commission, d'un budget global de 13,1 milliards d'Ecus pour permettre d'assurer la continuite de l'effort de recherche communautaire.

Lors de la session du Conseil du 11 octobre dernier, une tres large majorite d'Etats membres avait pu marquer leur accord sur un tel montant. Deux d'entre eux preferaient toutefois un montant inferieur et un autre ne pouvait prendre position a ce moment-la.

Dans son avis, le Parlement Europeen a estime quant a lui qu'un montant de 13,7 milliards d'Ecus etait necessaire pour tenir compte des nouvelles responsabilites attribuees a la RDT par le Traite de Maastricht, ainsi que de l'insertion de la demonstration Energie (majeure partie de THERMIE).

Pour memoire rappelons que :

- le 16 juin 1993, la Commission a mis sur la table sa proposition pour le IVeme Programme Cadre;
- le 6 octobre, la Commission a precise par le biais d'un document de travail ses intentions quant au contenu scientifique et technologique des programmes specifiques qui en assureront la mise en oeuvre;
- le 18 novembre, le Parlement Europeen a adopte en pleniere son avis en 1ere lecture sur la proposition;
- et que, lors du Sommet Europeen du 29 octobre, les Chefs d'Etat et de Gouvernement des Douze ont invite le Parlement et le Conseil a prendre une decision sur ce sujet avant la fin de l'annee.

Deux autres points pourraient egalement etre a l'ordre du jour de ce Conseil :

- ITER : Mandat de negociations pour le Protocole 2 :

Le 21 juillet dernier, a Washington, un important accord de cooperation etait signe pour une duree de six ans pour l'etude detaillee d'un reacteur thermonucleaire experimental international (ITER) par des representants de la CE, des USA, du Japon et de la Russie (IP(92)619). Cet accord permet de poursuivre la cooperation entamee entre ces parties depuis 1988. Cette cooperation est mise en oeuvre concretement par le biais de differents Protocoles. Le Protocole 1 qui couvre la periode jusqu'en mars 1994 a ete signe en meme temps que l'accord lui-meme (juillet 1992). Le Protocole 2 vise a prendre la suite du Protocole 1 pour continuer la cooperation engagee.

- Resolution du Conseil sur l'avenir des reacteurs d'essais dans la Communaute :

Dans cette resolution, les Douze souligneraient l'importance et l'interet pour l'Europe de disposer d'un potentiel adapte aux besoins et performant en reacteurs d'essai, notamment pour leur contribution a des etudes relatives a la surete des reacteurs de puissance ou encore leur contribution a la production de radio-isotopes necessaires a des fins medicales.

Ils y inviteraient notamment la Commission a accroitre la concertation entre toutes les parties interessees dans ce domaine et a examiner les possibilites eventuelles d'octroi de prets EURATOM au benefice de ces reacteurs dans la Communaute.

Actuellement, il existe quatre reacteurs de ce type dans la Communaute : a Petten (Pays-Bas), a Mol (Belgique), a Grenoble et Saclay (France).

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PRESS RELEASE

11395/93 (Presse 251)

Continuation of the
1716th Council meeting

- RESEARCH -

Brussels, 22 December 1993

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Mr Paul KRÜGER Minister for Research and Technology

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Mr Nikos CHRISTODOULAKIS Secretary-General,
Ministry of Industry, Energy and Technology

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Mr Seamus BRENNAN Minister for Science and Technology

Italy:

Mr Umberto COLOMBO Minister for Scientific Research

Luxembourg:

Mr Marc FISCHBACH Minister for Education and Scientific Research

Netherlands:

Mr Ate OOSTRA Deputy Permanent Representative

Portugal:

Mr Luis VALENTE DE OLIVEIRA Minister for Territorial Planning and Management
Mr Manuel FERNANDES THOMAZ State Secretary for Science and Technology

United Kingdom:

Mr William WALDEGRAVE Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster,
Minister for Public Service and Science

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Commission:

Mr Martin BANGEMANN Member
Mr Antonio RUBERTI Member

RESEARCH FRAMEWORK PROGRAMMES (1994-1995)

The Council reached political agreement on the common position on the 4th framework programme of Community activities in the field of research, technological development and demonstration (1994-1998) and on the Decision concerning a framework programme of Community activities in the field of research and training for the European Atomic Energy Community (1994-1998).

The common position will be formally adopted at a later meeting, following finalization of the texts.

Following the agreement reached at the European Council meeting in Brussels on 10 and 11 December 1993, the maximum overall amount for Community financial participation in the research framework programmes was set at ECU 12 billion.

By 30 June 1996 at the latest, the European Parliament and the Council, acting in accordance with the procedure laid down in Article 1301(1) of the Treaty, will, in the light of an assessment of the progress made in implementing the framework programme, re-examine the maximum overall amount and may increase it to ECU 13 billion.

The planned overall amount for the Joint Research Centre is ECU 875 million.

The respective shares of each of the Activities envisaged and the breakdown between the themes of the First Activity are indicated in the annexed table.

ANNEX

Breakdown between the 13 headings of the First Activity and the two headings of the EURATOM framework programme (headings 12 and 13)

	in percentage terms	out of a total amount of ECU 12 billion
A. INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES	28,20	3 384
1. Telematics	6,85	822
2. Communication technologies		630
3. Information technologies	5,25	1 932
	16,10	
B. INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGIES	16,00	1 920
4. Industrial and materials technologies	13,60	1 632
5. Measurements and testing	2,40	288
C. ENVIRONMENT	9,00	1 080
6. Environment and climate	7,10	852
7. Marine sciences and technologies	1,90	228
D. LIFE SCIENCES AND TECHNOLOGIES	13,10	1 572
8. Biotechnology	4,60	552
9. Biomedicine and health	2,80	336
10. Agriculture and fisheries	5,70	684
E. ENERGY	18,65	2 238
11. Non-nuclear energy	8,20	984
12. Nuclear fission safety	3,45	414
13. Controlled thermonuclear fusion	7,00	840
F. TRANSPORT	2,00	240
14. Transport		
G. TARGETED SOCIO-ECONOMIC RESEARCH	0,85	102
15. Socio-economic research		
TOTAL FIRST ACTIVITY	87,8	10 536
SECOND ACTIVITY	3,50	420
THIRD ACTIVITY	2,50	300
FOURTH ACTIVITY	6,20	744

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Economic and Monetary Union

Following the political agreement reached by the Ecofin Council on 13 December 1993, the Council formally adopted the Council Recommendation on the broad guidelines of the economic policies of the Member States and of the Community.

Interest subsidies on EIB loans to SMEs

Further to the conclusions of the European Council meetings in Copenhagen and Brussels, the Council reached political agreement – subject to the Opinion to be delivered by the European Parliament – on the proposal for a Decision on the provision of Community interest subsidies on loans for SMEs extended by the EIB under its temporary lending facility.

That Decision provides for the Community to grant 2% subsidies for the purpose of lowering the interest rate on EIB loans to SMEs in the Community for a total amount of ECU 1 billion in principal. Those loans are to be extended by the Bank – for a maximum period of 5 years under the terms and conditions applying to loans granted under the temporary facility originally established by the Board of Governors of the Bank on 10 February 1993 and extended by the Board on 30 November 1993. The benefit of the subsidies will be restricted to investment projects involving the creation of employment.

Sixth VAT Directive

The Council adopted the Decision authorizing the Federal Republic of Germany to apply a measure derogating from Article 2(1) and Article 17 of the sixth VAT Directive (77/388/EEC) on the harmonization of the laws of the Member States relating to turnover taxes.

That Decision follows a German Government request for authorization to simplify the present transitional VAT rules applicable to certain repairs and haulage services which give rise to difficulties for firms.

Establishment of the Europol Drugs Unit

The Council agreed on the recommendations concerning the establishment of the Europol Drugs Unit (EDU) and the Project Team.

The recommendations concern, in particular, the appointment of the caretaker co-ordinator, the 1994 budget and the financial principles of the EDU, the financial arrangements for the co-ordinator and assistant co-ordinators for 1994 and the work programme for the implementation of EDU for 1994.

Steel industry

Following the discussions of the Industry Council on 17 December 1993, the Council adopted assents pursuant to the first paragraph of Article 95 of the ECSC Treaty concerning draft Commission Decisions relating respectively to the:

- restructuring of the steel company SIDENOR – Spain ;
- privatization of Sächsische Edelstahlwerke GmbH – Freital/Saxony (former GDR) ;
- restructuring of the Spanish Integrated Steel Company (Corporacion de la Siderurgia Integral (CSI)) – Spain ;
- restructuring of the steel company ILVA – Italy ;
- privatization, modernization and restructuring of EKO Stahl AG – former GDR ;
- restructuring of the company Siderurgia Nacional – Portugal.

Agriculture

Following the agreement reached at the Council meeting on 14, 15, 16 and 17 December 1993 (see Press Release 11188/93 Presse 235), the Council adopted:

the Regulations

- amending:
 - = Regulations Nos 2328/91, 866/90, 1360/78, 1035/72 and 449/69 with a view to expediting the adjustment of production, processing and marketing structures within the framework of the reform of the common agricultural policy
 - = Regulation No 805/68 on the common organization of the market in beef and veal
- on
 - = special arrangements for imports of maize into Portugal
 - = the suspension of the import levy on sheepmeat and goatmeat sector products

= the continued import of New Zealand butter into the United Kingdom on special terms.

the Decisions

- amending Decision 90/218/EEC on the placing on the market and administration of Bovine Somatotropin (BST)
- concerning the extension of the voluntary restraint agreements between the Community and
 - = Argentina, Australia, New Zealand and Uruguay on trade in mutton, lamb and goatmeat
 - = Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, the Slovak Republic, Hungary and Poland on trade in mutton, lamb and goatmeat

the Directives

- on the protection of animals at the time of slaughter or killing
- amending Directive 85/73/EEC on the financing of health inspections and controls of fresh meat and poultrymeat.

The Council also adopted

- the Directives
 - = amending Directive 90/539/EEC on animal health conditions governing intra-Community trade in and imports from third countries of poultry and hatching eggs
 - = amending Directive 91/494/EEC on animal health conditions governing intra-Community trade in and imports from third countries of fresh poultrymeat
- the Resolution on the strengthening of veterinary epidemiological surveillance measures.

Wines originating in Bulgaria, Hungary and Romania

The Council adopted the Regulation opening and providing for the administration of Community tariff quotas for certain wines originating in Bulgaria, Hungary and Romania for the period 1 January to 31 December 1994.

The following quotas are involved:

- Bulgaria: quality sparkling wine – 1 100 hl quality wine, including quality wine with a designation of origin 247 200 hl – quality wine, including wine obtained from grapes of the "Gamza" and "Kadarka" vine varieties 118 000 hl, at a 60% quota duty rate;

- Hungary: wine of fresh grapes 70 000 hl - quality sparkling wine 2 700 hl - quality wine, including wine of superior quality and quality wine bearing the geographical indication "Tokaj" or the name "Tajbor" 130 000 hl, at a 60% quota duty rate;
- Romania: wine of fresh grapes, including sparkling wine and liqueur wine 120 000 hl, at a 60% quota duty rate.

Energy

Following the agreements reached at the Energy Council meeting on 10 December 1993 (see Press Release 10897/93 Presse 230), the Council:

- adopted its common position on the proposal for a Directive on the conditions for granting and using authorizations for the prospection, exploration and production of hydrocarbons
- gave its assent concerning a draft Commission Decision establishing Community rules for State aid to the coal industry.

Anti-dumping

The Council adopted by a qualified majority, with the United Kingdom voting against, the Regulation imposing a definitive anti-dumping duty of 18,6% on imports into the Community of photo albums in book bound form originating in the People's Republic of China and collecting definitively the provisional anti-dumping duty.

The Council also adopted the Regulation on the suspension of anti-dumping measures against EFTA countries in respect of the following products:

- container corner fittings originating in Austria
- silicon carbide originating in Norway
- urea originating in Austria
- ferrosilicon originating in Iceland, Norway and Sweden
- diesel engines originating in Sweden and Finland.

Customs Union

The Council adopted the Regulation opening and providing for the administration of Community tariff quotas for certain industrial products (2nd series 1994).

Relations with the former Yugoslavia

The Council adopted the arrangements applicable in 1994 to imports into the Community of EC and ECSC products originating in the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Republic of Croatia, the Republic of Slovenia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

Ref: BIO/93/329

DATE DOCUMENT : 93/12/23

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RESEARCH COUNCIL OF 22 DECEMBER 1993

Une etape importante pour la recherche communautaire a ete franchie mercredi 22 decembre par les Ministres de la Recherche de la Communaute reunis en Conseil a Bruxelles. Les Douze ont en effet trouve un accord pour une position commune sur le IVeme Programme Cadre de RDT de la CE (1994-1998). Voir MEMO 58/93. L'adoption formelle de cette position commune interviendra comme point A lors d'une prochaine session du Conseil apres mise au point des textes par le COREPER.

Comme a tenu a souligner le Commissaire Antonio RUBERTI a l'issue de la reunion, 'Apres l'approbation du Livre Blanc sur la competitivite, la croissance et l'emploi, et la conclusion positive des accords du GATT, le Conseil des Ministres cloture ainsi avec un grand succes un semestre decisif pour la relance de l'Union Europeenne.

Dans leur substance, les objectifs de la proposition que la Commission avait mise sur la table du Conseil ont en fait ete atteints.

En ce qui concerne le budget global a consacrer a la recherche jusqu'a fin 1998, l'accord obtenu aujourd'hui porte sur un montant de 12 milliards d'Ecus auquel s'ajoute une reserve d'un milliard d'Ecus qui serait debloquee en 1996.

Le montant global correspond ainsi pratiquement a la proposition faite par la Commission (13,1). Un tel budget garantit la continuite de l'effort communautaire de recherche au moment ou demarre une action concertee pour relancer l'economie et la competitivite du systeme europeen.

En ce qui concerne la repartition d'un tel financement, la decision du Conseil est proche de la proposition de la Commission qui mettait particulierement l'accent, d'une part, sur les technologies liees a la competitivite industrielle, l'environnement et la biotechnologie, ainsi que, d'autre part, sur le developpement des ressources humaines et la mobilite des chercheurs.

En outre, le Centre Commun de Recherche, qui s'ouvrira progressivement (dans des limites bien definies) a la concurrence, a vu son role et son avenir confirmes et garantis.

Il revient maintenant au Parlement de reagir sur cette position du Conseil afin d'arriver rapidement a une decision finale qui permette de mettre concretement en oeuvre les programmes de recherche en coordination avec les activites engagees par les Etats membres.'

Outre la fixation du budget global a affecter a ce IVeme Programme Cadre, l'accord auquel sont parvenus les Ministres definit egalement, comme decrit ci-apres en pourcentage, la ventilation de ce montant entre les differentes lignes du programme et prevoit qu'un montant de 875

Mecus sera affecte aux activites du Centre Commun de Recherche.

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Il a ainsi ete decide d'affecter :

- 87,8 % Action I (programmes de recherche) + 1 %
pour des activites de diffusion et de
valorisation au sein de cette Action
- 3,5 % Action II (cooperation internationale)
- 2,5 % Action III (diffusion et valorisation des
resultats)
- 6,2 % Action IV (mobillite et formation des
chercheurs).

Au sein de l'Action I, il a ete decide de ventiler les ressources comme
suit :

- 28,2 % technologies de l'information et des
communications
- 6,85 % telematique
- 5,25 % technologies des communications
- 16,10 % technologies de l'information
- 16 % technologies industrielles
- 13,6 % technologies industrielles et des materiaux
- 2,4 % mesures et essais
- 9 % environnement
- 7,1 % environnement et climat
- 1,9 % sciences et technologies marines
- 13,1 % sciences et technologies du vivant
- 4,6 % biotechnologie
- 2,8 % biomedecine et sante
- 5,7 % agriculture et peche
- 18,65 % energie
- 8,2 % energie non-nucleaire
- 3,45 % securite de la fusion nucleaire
- 7 % fusion thermonucleaire controlee
- 2 % transports
- 0,85 % recherche socio-economique.

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