



COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES  
GENERAL SECRETARIAT



PRESS RELEASE

11293/86 (Presse 200)

1130th meeting of the Council  
- Research -  
Brussels, 9 and 10 December 1986

President: Mr Geoffrey PATTIE

Minister of State for Industry  
and Information Technology  
of the United Kingdom

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

Belgium:

Mr Guy VERHOFSTADT                      Minister for the Budget,  
Science Policy and Planning

Denmark:

Mr Bertel HAARDER                      Minister for Education

Germany:

Mr Heinz RIESENHUBER                  Federal Minister for Research and  
Technology

Greece:

Mrs Kyriakos PAPAILIOU                Secretary-General for Research and  
Technology

Spain:

Mr José Maria MARAVALLY HERRERO     Minister for Education and Science

Mr Juan Manuel ROJA ALAMINO         State Secretary for the  
Universities and Research

France:

Mr Bernard BOSSON                     Minister with responsibility for  
European Affairs

Ireland:

Mr Richard BRUTON                     Minister of State,  
Department of Industry and Trade

Italy:

Mr Luigi GRANELLI                     Minister for the co-ordination of  
Scientific Research

Luxembourg:

Mr Fernand BODEN

Minister for Education

Netherlands:

Mr R.W. de KORTE

Minister for Economic Affairs

United Kingdom:

Mr Geoffrey PATTIE

Minister of State for Industry  
and Information Technology

Portugal:

Mr Eduardo R. de ARANTES  
E OLIVEIRA

State Secretary for Scientific  
Research

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Commission:

Mr Karl-Heinz NARJES

Vice-President

EVALUATION OF COMMUNITY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES  
(1987-1991) - COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Following a preliminary discussion on the Commission communication of 24 November 1986 concerning a Community plan of action relating to the evaluation of Community R & D activities (1987-1991), the Council adopted the following resolution:

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

HAVING REGARD to the Treaties establishing the European Communities,

HAVING REGARD to the Council Resolution of 28 June 1983 on a Community plan of action relating to the evaluation of Community research and development programmes (<sup>1</sup>),

HAVING REGARD to the communication from the Commission containing a Community plan of action relating to the evaluation of Community research and development activities,

WHEREAS evaluation is an essential component in the formulation, execution and revision of R & D programmes and enables them to be efficiently managed;

WHEREAS evaluation should constitute a key element in the implementation and management of the Framework Programme of Community activities in the field of research and technological development for the years 1987-1991;

WHEREAS the Council Resolution of 28 June 1983 called for a further communication from the Commission on the establishment of a fully operational R & D evaluation plan,

TAKES NOTE of the survey presented by the Commission on the evaluation activities of the Commission during the period 1983-1985,

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(<sup>1</sup>) OJ No C 213, 9.8.1983.

AGREES with the importance attached by the Commission to the evaluation process and in particular in terms of assessing the results of Community programmes, their relevance to the Community's needs, the effectiveness of management and the use of resources and of aiding future decisions about the continuation, alteration or termination of programmes,

TAKES NOTE of the five-year Plan of Action proposed by the Commission for the evaluation of Community R & D activities and in particular:

- the intention of the Commission that the independent evaluation unit should ensure that evaluations of specific programmes are conducted according to the methods described in the Plan of Action;
- the need for the setting up of milestones and verifiable objectives for each programme;
- the intention of the Commission to spend a percentage of the funding of specific programmes on their evaluation and that this expenditure should be managed independently of the management of R & D activities;
- the intention of the Commission to present to the Council a proposal for a research programme on evaluation as soon as the Framework Programme 1987-1991 has been adopted;

RESOLVES to give further consideration to the question of evaluation and to examine in more detail the Commission communication on the subject.

RELATIONS BETWEEN THE COMMUNITY AND EUREKA - COUNCIL CONCLUSIONS

The Council took note of the Commission's communication on the relations between the Community and EUREKA. The Council recognized the complementary nature of Community research and development programmes and EUREKA projects and the fact that, on the whole, EUREKA projects are nearer to the market place than precompetitive Community R & D activities.

The Council agreed on the importance of maximising the benefits of a complementary relationship between Community activities and EUREKA projects and of avoiding undesirable duplication. To this end, Member States, the Commission and participants in EUREKA projects and proposals could discuss any links identified with Community programmes.

The Council noted in particular the scope, on a case by case basis, for the exchange of information, for co-ordination of activities, for appropriate Community participation in particular projects, for development of standards which serve to promote from EUREKA projects and are indispensable for their commercial success and for exploiting the benefits of developments in the internal market for EUREKA projects.

The Council welcomed the practical measures of support to be provided by the Commission to the EUREKA Secretariat.

The Council intends to examine at a later stage the precise modalities of the relationship between the Community RDT programmes and EUREKA projects.

FUTURE ROLE OF THE JOINT RESEARCH CENTRE - REVISION OF THE  
JRC PROGRAMME (1984 - 1987)

In the light of the report of the Panel of Senior Industrialists entitled "An Industrial View of the JRC" which it received on 5 December with the comments of the Centre's Board of Governors, the Council had a preliminary exchange of views on the future role of the JRC.

The Council reacted favourably to the report and endorsed its general conclusion that there was without a doubt a place for a Community research establishment but that its role needed to be redefined in the light in particular of the conclusions of the abovementioned report.

The Council welcomed the intention of the incoming Belgian Presidency to give it the opportunity to discuss the Commission's first ideas on the subject as early as March.

As regards the changes to be made to the JRC's research programme for 1987 the Council has not yet finalized its conclusions.

FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME OF COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES IN THE FIELD OF RESEARCH  
AND TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT (1987-1991)

The Council made a full examination of the Commission's proposal concerning the framework programme for research and technological development (1987-1991) and the positions adopted by the delegations in this connection.

At the close of discussions, the Presidency and the Commission having noted that a decision on the framework programme as a whole did not appear possible in the near future, Mr NARJES, Vice-President of the Commission, orally presented to the Council a proposal for a partial decision for 1987-1989, on the understanding that a decision on the Commission proposal for the framework programme as a whole would be taken in the context of the revision which was in any case to take place in 1989.

The Council asked the Commission to put its proposal for a partial decision in writing within the next few days. The Council agreed to resume its discussions on this basis on 22 December next.

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Bruxelles, le 8 décembre 1986

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Note BIO(86) 336 aux Bureaux Nationaux & Strasbourg  
cc. Membres du Service du Porte-Parole

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RENDEZ-VOUS DE MIDI DU 8.12.1986 ET  
PREPARATION CONSEIL RECHERCHE DU 9.12.1986 (P. VINTHER)  
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Matériel diffusé :  
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MEMO 153	Préparation du Conseil "Recherche"
P-98	Rapport d'avancement du programme ESPRIT
IP 602	Emprunt CECA de 100 MECU pour la reconversion des Industries du charbon et de l'acier
IP 603	STABEX - 150 MECUS pour l'année d'application 1985
MEMO 154	Comité mixte CE-Suisse : réunion le 9.12. à Bruxelles

Conseil Recherche :

1) Programme-cadre pluriannuel de recherche et de développement technologique

Le 9 décembre, les ministres de la recherche des Douze, réunis à Bruxelles, devraient se prononcer à l'unanimité sur la proposition de programme-cadre de recherche et de développement technologique pour les années 1987-1991 que la Commission leur a soumis au mois de juillet et qui a fait l'objet d'un premier débat au Conseil le 21 octobre dernier.

Le programme-cadre proposé par la Commission est doté d'un budget de 7 735 millions d'ECUs, somme qu'elle considère comme le minimum nécessaire à son succès. Il couvre tout un ensemble de domaines, où, de l'avis général, un "saut qualitatif" de l'effort de recherche au niveau européen est indispensable : nouvelles technologies industrielles, technologies de l'information, télécommunications, recherches en matière de santé, d'environnement, d'énergie, etc. (voir P-62).

Le programme-cadre a fait l'objet d'un projet de résolution de la Commission de l'Energie, de la Recherche et de la Technologie du Parlement européen (CERT). Cette résolution exprime un soutien total à la proposition de la Commission. Elle a été adoptée à l'unanimité par la CERT et est débattue en séance plénière aujourd'hui à Strasbourg.

2) Programme pluriannuel du Centre Commun de Recherche (CCR)

En liaison avec l'examen et la décision sur le programme-cadre, le Conseil débattera d'une proposition de la Commission pour une révision du programme du CCR (1984-1987) pour l'année 1987. Cette proposition prévoit le renforcement des activités du CCR dans le domaine de la recherche prénormative (matériaux, environnement, technologies énergétiques, etc.) ainsi que le développement des relations du CCR avec les autres centres de recherche de la Communauté et le monde industriel (voir P-58).

La question de l'avenir à plus long terme du CCR fait d'ailleurs l'objet d'un rapport rédigé, à la demande de la Commission, par un panel d'experts indépendants, rapport dont les ministres auront également l'occasion de prendre connaissance.

3) A l'ordre du jour du Conseil figure de plus l'examen de deux communications récentes de la Commission (voir P-91) :

Dans la première d'entre elles, la Commission expose la manière dont elle envisage les relations entre les projets de recherche communautaires et les projets développés dans le cadre de l'initiative multinationale EUREKA et propose une série de mesures destinées à optimiser la complémentarité de ces deux types de projets situés à des niveaux différents du processus de recherche : le niveau de la recherche fondamentale ainsi que précompétitive et pré-normative pour les programmes communautaires; le niveau du développement de nouveaux produits, processus et services demandés par le marché pour l'initiative EUREKA.

L'autre communication récente est relative à un plan d'évaluation de la recherche communautaire pour la période 1987-1991, la période même du futur programme-cadre : l'évaluation est en effet une dimension de gestion de la recherche à laquelle la Commission entend bien faire une place de premier plan dans son action future. La communication qui sera examinée au Conseil prévoit de confier dans une large mesure l'évaluation des programmes communautaires à des panels d'experts indépendants et de consultants extérieurs.

Amitiés  
H. PAEMEN



Note blo (86)336 (suite 1) aux Bureaux Nationaux  
cc. aux membres du Service du Porte-Parole

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(Per Vinther)

Research Council on 9 december 1986

During this morning's session Research Ministers discussed two recent communications from the Commission, namely

- Evaluation of Community R&D programmes

Ministers welcomed the Commission's intentions in this area and stressed the need for such evaluation by independent external experts. According to Vice-President NARJES evaluation would cost around 0.25 % of the funding of each individual programme. The Research Ministers then adopted a resolution taking note of the Commission's Plan of Action and announcing the Council's intention to study the Commission's communication in detail later on.

- Relations between the Community framework programme and EUREKA

Also here the Council took note of the Commission's communication and recognized the complementary nature of the two, Community research being essentially fundamental or precompetitive whereas EUREKA projects are nearer to the market place.

Mr NARJES requested a slight modification to the conclusions of the Council on the question of standards where he wanted to make it absolutely clear that standardisation is the affair of the Community and the European standardisation bodies CEN, CENELEC and also CEPT, and that industrial consortia should not be authorized to set standards.

- JRC

The Council then proceeded to discuss the revision of the last year of the JRC multiannual programme in the light of the recently submitted report from a panel of industrial experts set up by the Commission.

Since the delegations had not had time to study the report in detail only preliminary remarks were made, however, some delegations saw the report as not exhaustive enough dealing mainly with the industrial aspects of a possible future role for the JRC and not so much with the scientific side of the Centre's activities.

The Spanish delegation found that it could not agree to the Commission's proposal for supplementary funding for 1987 of 12.6 million ECU before the report had been discussed further. Also the Danish and the UK delegation were unwilling to consider further funding of the JRC at the moment.

Mr NARJES stressed that the 12.6 MECU represent about 40% of the necessary funding for 1987 for activities to be carried out at their present level and with the redirection towards prenormative research as indicated in the Commission's proposal.

The Italian minister made a plea for reconsideration by the three delegations and made it clear that for Italy there is a firm link between a decision on the framework programme and the acceptance of supplementary funding for the JRC.

The Council president concluded that there seemed to be agreement on an informal meeting in March of 1987 to discuss further the panel's report and comments on it from the JRC Board of Governors. It was requested that the Commission present a "reform plan" for the JRC at the same time.

As far as supplementary funding is concerned it was agreed to consider this in the course of this afternoon's discussion on the framework programme. The Italian minister announced a general reserve on the entire debate unless a satisfactory solution to the financial problems of the JRC was found.

Ministers then adjourned for lunch where they are to have a first round on the funding of the framework programme. In the beginning of the afternoon they will discuss legal and technical details of the decision on the Commission's proposal and then return to the question of financing in the late afternoon.

Regards  
G. Anoull



Brussels, 10 December 1986.

Note BIO (86)336 (suite 2 et fin) aux Bureaux Nationaux  
cc. aux membres du Service du Porte-Parole

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Research Council on 9 December 1986 (P. VINTHER)  
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New Council meeting on 22 December to decide on framework  
programme

The Research Ministers devoted the entire afternoon in restricted session to the discussion of legal and technical details of the decision on the Commission's proposal. It seems that in the end it will be possible to reach agreement on all these points, but no further indications were given.

This was followed by seven hours of bilateral consultations on possible solutions to the problem of financing for the five-year programme.

Indications were that three Member States led by the UK - in fact still refusing to translate the declarations of their own heads of state or government into hard facts - found the Commission's proposed budget of 7.735 billion ECU too ambitious and advanced figures in the area of 3.6 to 4.2 billion themselves, a level unacceptable to the Commission as well as the majority of the other Member States, thereby making a decision impossible.

In an attempt to break the deadlock, Vice-President NARJES and the Council Presidency worked out a proposal (in Mr Pattie's words: The Presidency is associated with this proposal) for a partial decision which the Ministers will be asked to consider at a new meeting later this month (probably the 22 December).

The outline of the suggestion is to maintain the five-year timeframe but only decide on the funding for the first three years of the programme. This funding would be based on the 1050 million ECU already in the 87-budget, adding about 20% for the second year ('88) and another 20% for the third year ('89) entirely in line with the conclusions of the European Council in Fontainebleau in 1984 which call for a gradual increase in Community R&D spending.

This corresponds to approximately 3.7 billion ECU in commitments for the three years and the Commission would then agree to spend only 3-3.1 billion during those same three years (these figures include the carry-over of about 1 billion ECU from specific programmes adopted under the present framework programme). Mr NARJES agreed to provide details of this suggestion in writing by the end of this week for consideration by the Council.

This also implies that an agreement on supplementary funding for the JRC is still outstanding.

The Council finished at 3 o'clock in the morning.

Regards

  
H. PAEMEN