

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
GENERAL SECRETARIAT

PRESS RELEASE

10584/87 (Presse 230)

1215th meeting of the Council

- Research -

Brussels, 21 December 1987

President: Mr Bertel HAARDER

Minister for Education and Research
of the Kingdom of Denmark

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

Belgium:

Mr Guy VERHOFSTADT Minister for Science Policy and
Planning

Denmark:

Mr Bertel HAARDER Minister for Education and Research
Mr Flemming WOLDBYE State Secretary for Education

Germany:

Mr Heinz RIESENHUBER Federal Minister for Research and
Technology
Mr Gerhard ZILLER State Secretary, Federal Ministry
for Research and Technology

Greece:

Mr E. ECONOMOU Secretary-General, Ministry of
Industry, Energy and Technology

Spain:

Mr Juan Manuel ROJO ALAMINOS State Secretary for the Universities
and Research

France:

Mr Jacques VALADE Minister attached to the Minister
for Education, with responsibility
for Research and Higher Education

Ireland

Mr Sean McCARTHY Minister of State at the Department
of Industry and Commerce

Italy:

Mr Antonio RUBERTI Minister for Research and
Universities

Luxembourg:

Mr Fernand BODEN

Minister for Education

Netherlands:

Mr P.C. NIEMAN

Ambassador, Permanent Representative

Portugal:

Mr Eduardo de ARANTES E OLIVEIRA

State Secretary for Science and
Technology

United Kingdom:

Mr Kenneth CLARKE

Minister for Trade and Industry

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o

Commission:

Mr Karl-Heinz NARJES

Vice-President

SECOND PHASE OF THE ESPRIT PROGRAMME

The Council adopted a common position, which will be forwarded to the European Parliament in the framework of the co-operation procedure introduced by the Single Act, on the second phase of the European strategic programme for research and development in information technologies - ESPRIT II.

This programme, which will be established for a period of five years beginning on 1 December 1987 with a Community contribution to funding amounting to 1 600 MECU ⁽¹⁾, is designed to:

- provide the European IT industry with the basic technologies to meet the competitive requirements of the nineties;
- promote European industrial co-operation in precompetitive R & D in Information Technology;
- pave the way for internationally-accepted standards.

⁽¹⁾ corresponding to line 2.1 of the framework programme - see too indicative internal allocation of these funds given in Annex I.

The first phase of the programme was decided on at the beginning of 1984 and the first assessments made indicated that the programme had been successfully established and should meet its original objectives, that it was even progressing faster than expected and that trans-European co-operation had developed at all levels, especially where small and medium-sized companies were concerned.

That assessment also concluded by recommending that, for the future development of ESPRIT, emphasis should continue to be on precompetitive research and development.

The programme would consequently comprise precompetitive research and development projects, actions in basic research aimed at complementing the precompetitive R & D effort and accompanying measures.

These projects - and actions - are to be carried out by means of contracts, to be concluded by the Commission with companies, including small and medium-sized undertakings, universities and other bodies established in the Community.

The projects and actions will be submitted by the interested parties in reply to a public call for proposals published in the Official Journal of the European Communities. The projects - and actions - must involve the participation of at least two independent industrial partners - two universities or research institutions for actions - not established in the same Member State.

Up to a maximum of 30% of the Community's total contribution to new projects launched under this programme may for each year be allocated to new projects which fall below the 5 MECU threshold.

Each contractor will be expected to bring a significant contribution to projects and actions and the contractors will be expected to bear a substantial proportion of the costs, 50% of which will normally be borne by the Community.

Alternatively, in respect of universities and research institutes carrying out projects or actions, the Community may bear up to 100% of the additional expenditure involved.

Derogations are laid down for exceptional cases as regards the public call for proposals, the participation of at least two partners established in different Member States, the rate of the Community's financial participation and the percentage figure concerning new "small projects".

Where framework agreements for scientific and technical co-operation have been concluded with other European countries, particularly EFTA countries, the participation of partners established in these countries will be possible. The Commission will also be able to negotiate agreements with the countries participating in COST with a view to ensuring concerted action between the Community activities relating to co-operation in the field of basic research and accompanying measures.

In general terms, the Commission will ensure that the programme is properly performed and take the appropriate implementation measures.

The Commission will be assisted in the performance of its tasks by a Committee consisting of two representatives of each Member State.

Specifically, the Commission will establish for each year, and update as required, a work programme defining the detailed objectives, the type of projects to be undertaken and the corresponding financial plans. The Commission will establish calls for proposals for projects on the basis of the annual work programmes.

The Commission will forward a report to the Council and to the European Parliament after 30 months on the basis of an evaluation of the results so far achieved. This report will be accompanied by suggestions for changes which may be necessary in the light of these results.

After completion of the programme, the Commission will send Member States and the European Parliament a report on the performance and results of the programme.

REVISION OF THE RESEARCH PROGRAMME IN THE FIELD OF RADIATION
PROTECTION

The Council adopted a Decision revising the multiannual research and training programme for the European Atomic Energy Community in the field of radiation protection (1985-1989).

The original 1985 Decision made provision for the possibility of a revision of the programme. In specific terms, the revision takes account of the fact that, in view of the severe radiation consequences of the Chernobyl reactor accident, it is in the Community's interest to carry out research on the effects of this accident, to carry out an evaluation of its hazards and to develop methods to control and reduce adverse consequences of radiation to the general public, workers and the environment.

The revision Decision increases the programme funding from 58 to 68 MECU; the increase will be used to conclude research contracts in the new field and for operational expenditure;

The supplementary research to be undertaken is defined in an Annex.

REVISION OF THE BRITE PROGRAMME

The Council adopted a common position to be forwarded to the European Parliament under the co-operation procedure provided for by the Single Act regarding the revision of the multiannual research and development programme in the field of basic technological research and application of new technologies - BRITE - 1985-1988.

The original Decision adopted in the spring of 1985 makes provision for a review of the BRITE programme in 1986. The resulting revision is designed:

- firstly, to step up the Community's financial contribution to BRITE, in view of the interest the programme has aroused, by increasing it from 125 MECU to 185 MECU for the period 1985 to 1988;
- secondly, to allow the EFTA States to take part by stipulating that organizations and enterprises established in other European countries may participate in BRITE projects where framework agreements for scientific and technical co-operation have been concluded with those countries. The new text also asks the Commission to set up procedures to allow for appropriate co-operation with COST activities related to the areas of research covered by the programme.

JOINT RESEARCH CENTRE

The Council took note of the draft conclusions presented by the Presidency with respect to the JRC and considered this draft to be a useful basis for further discussion within the Council:

"The Council held a first exchange of views on the Commission communication entitled "A new outlook for the Joint Research Centre" which embodies proposals in respect of the new multi-annual research programme (1988-1991) for the Joint Research Centre (JRC) and contains three proposals for Council Decisions in respect of non-nuclear research, nuclear research and a supplementary programme to be implemented by the JRC.

Pending receipt of the Opinions of the European Parliament and the Economic and Social Committee on each of the three proposals, and the opinion of the Scientific and Technical Research Committee (CREST), the Council concentrated its discussions at this first stage on general questions of principle underlying the Commission's proposal.

The Council notes that the Commission's document is a first step towards meeting the need for certain major changes in the JRC identified during previous discussions in the Council and other bodies, including in particular the Panel of Senior Industrialists ⁽¹⁾.

The Council reaffirmed the Community character of the JRC, considering it vital for the future success of the Centre that it should play as full a part as possible in achieving the Community's aim of strengthening the scientific and technological basis of European industry and encouraging it to become more competitive at international level, as well as contributing to environmental and safety policies.

⁽¹⁾ "An Industrial View of the JRC"

The Council agreed in principle with the Commission proposal that the customer/contractor principle should be the basis on which the Centre conducted research both for the Commission's own services and third parties, but considered that the application of this principle, including the contributions to be expected from third parties, required further clarification.

The Council considered that the JRC should strengthen its links with research institutes in Member States and invited the Commission to explore the various ways in which increased co-operation and staff mobility could be achieved.

The Council considered that the short and medium-term financial targets and the financial resources foreseen by the Commission for the different modalities of research activity as well as the relationship of these activities with the Community R&D Framework Programme required a more detailed analysis than had been possible in the limited time available and agreed to return to these questions.

The Council acknowledged the need for a reorganization of the JRC's internal management, consultative structure and staff policy. Whilst recognizing that these matters fell mainly within the Commission's competence, the Council agreed to return to them at its meeting on 11 April 1988. The Council took note of the Commission's willingness to inform it of its conceptual approach to the new role envisaged for the Board of Governors. The Council would wish this approach to include provisions for a strengthened role for the Board of Governors in respect of the organizational structure, personnel and financial management and the implementation of programmes within the JRC. The Council invites the Commission to put forward details of this approach by mid-February.

In conclusion, the Council reaffirmed the importance it attached to seeing the Joint Research Centre transformed in such a way as to enable it to play an effective part in the achievement of the Community's objectives in the area of research and development and invited the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue work with a view to the adoption of the relevant Decisions with the least possible delay."

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Other Decision in the research sphere

The Council noted the Commission's intention of extending the co-operation agreement for exchange of information in the field of management of radioactive wastes between the United States Department of Energy and the EAEC.

Own resources

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Regulation introducing a temporary derogation from Regulation (EEC, Euratom, ECSC) No 2891/77 implementing the Decision of 21 April 1970 on the replacement of financial contributions from Member States by the Communities' own resources.

Since the shortfall in traditional own resources in 1987 cannot be offset by own resources accruing from VAT, this Regulation makes provision for the refunds in respect of own resources established in June, July, August, September and October 1987 up to a limit of 400 MECU, to be made at the beginning of the financial year 1988.

Agriculture

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

- the Decision on the level of the rates of investment aid provided for by Regulation (EEC) No 797/85 to be applied in Greece, Ireland and Italy;
- the Regulation concerning the extension of certain provisions of Regulation (EEC) No 797/85 applicable in the pig production sector.

In both cases application of the arrangements currently in force under the aforesaid Regulation on improving the efficiency of agricultural structures is extended until 31 March 1988 (see Press Release 10268/87 Presse 216).

Fisheries

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

- the Regulation fixing, for certain fish stocks and groups of fish stocks, total allowable catches for 1988 and certain conditions under which they may be fished;
- the Regulation amending for the third time Regulation (EEC) No 3094/86 laying down certain technical measures for the conservation of fishery resources.

(See Press Release 10336/87 (Presse 221), page 5.)

EEC/EFTA relations

The Council adopted, in the official languages of the Communities, the Regulations on the application of Decisions No 2/87 of the EEC-EFTA Joint Committees supplementing and amending Protocol No 3 concerning the definition of the concept of "originating products" and methods of administrative co-operation with a view to simplifying the documentation relating to evidence of origin.

The Council also adopted, in the official languages of the Communities, the Regulations:

- opening Community tariff quotas for:
 - = unroasted malt falling within subheading 1107 10 99 of the Combined Nomenclature and originating in and coming from Finland;
 - = table cherries, excluding Morello cherries, falling within code 0809 20 10 or 0809 20 90 of the Combined Nomenclature and originating in Switzerland (1988);
 - = certain oils and fats of marine animals falling within codes ex 1504 20 10, ex 1504 30 19 and ex 1516 10 90 of the Combined Nomenclature and originating in Norway (1988);
- opening, allocating and providing for the administration of Community tariff quotas for
 - = frozen peas falling within code 0710 21 00 or ex 0710 29 00 of the Combined Nomenclature and originating in Sweden (1988);
 - = fillets of certain cod and fish of the species *Boreogadus saida* falling within code 0305 30 19 of the Combined Nomenclature and originating in Norway (1988);
 - = certain fishery products originating in Sweden (1988);
 - = certain prepared or preserved fish falling within codes ex 1604 13 90, ex 1604 15 90, ex 1604 19 99 and ex 1604 20 90 of the Combined Nomenclature (1988) and originating in Norway.

Relations with the Mediterranean countries

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

- the Decision on the conclusion of the
 - = Additional Protocols to Association and Co-operation Agreements between the EEC and Cyprus and with Yugoslavia (Economic Protocol);
 - = Financial Protocols to Co-operation Agreements between the EEC and Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Tunisia and Yugoslavia;
- the Regulations on the implementation of the Decisions of the EEC-Cyprus, EEC-Israel and EEC-Malta Co-operation Councils again amending Articles 6 and 17 of the Protocol on the definition of the concept of "originating products" and methods of administrative co-operation;
- the Regulations again amending Articles 6 and 17 of the Protocol on the definition of the concept of "originating products" and methods of administrative co-operation in the Co-operation Agreements between the EEC and Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco and Yugoslavia.

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

- the Regulation fixing conditions for the application of preferential customs duties on imports of certain flowers originating in Cyprus, Israel and Jordan;

- the Regulations and the Decision on the preferential arrangements to be granted to the Mediterranean countries - tariff quotas, ceilings and import arrangements:

Country	Products	Commission proposal	Legal-Linguistic Experts reference
1. <u>Turkey</u>	(a) hazelnuts	10217/87 NT 27	10217/1/87 NT 27 REV 1
	(b) ceilings for petroleum products	10218/87 NT 28	10218/1/87 NT 28 REV 1
	(c) GSP measures	10219/87 NT 29	10219/1/87 NT 29 REV 1
2. <u>Malta</u>	(a) textile ceilings	10226/87 M 2	10226/1/87 M 2 REV 1
	(b) GSP measures	10227/87 M 3	10227/1/87 M 3 REV 1
3. <u>Cyprus</u>	(a) dried grapes	10135/87 CY 17	10135/1/87 CY 17 REV 1
	(b) - sweet)	-	10544/87 CY 20
	peppers)	10133/87 CY 15	
	- sugar beet)	-	10545/87 CY 21
	(c) - wine of fresh)	-	10546/87 CY 22
	grapes)	10220/87 CY 18	
	- dessert wine)		10547/87 CY 23
	(d) cut flowers	10134/87 CY 16	10134/1/87 CY 16 REV 1
4. <u>Tunisia</u>	(a) sardines	9877/87 TU 28	9877/1/87 TU 28 REV 1
	(b) apricot pulp	10138/87 TU 29	10138/1/87 TU 29 REV 1
5. <u>Algeria</u>	wine of designated origin	9876/87 AL 19	9876/1/87 AL 19 REV 1
6. <u>Egypt</u>	onions	10221/87 ET 12	10221/1/87 ET 12 REV 1
7. <u>Jordan</u>	cut flowers	9878/87 ISR 11 RHJ 12	10550/87 RHJ 14
8. <u>Yugoslavia</u>	(a) wine of fresh grapes	10137/87 YU 29	10137/1/87 YU 29 REV 1
	(b) industrial ceilings	10136/87 YU 28	10136/1/87 YU 28 REV 1
	(c) - tobacco)	10222/87 YU 31	10548/87 YU 40
	- Sljivovica)	10223/87 YU 32	10549/87 YU 41
	(d) ECSC Decision		10223/1/87 YU 32 REV 1
	(e) - sweet peppers)		
	- frozen peas)	10224/87 YU 33	10224/1/87 YU 33 REV 1
	- garlic)		
9. <u>Israel</u>	apricot pulp	9304/87 ISR 9 (version B, of 10)	9304/1/87 ISR 9 REV 1

The Council also adopted, in the official languages of the Communities, the Regulations laying down the arrangements for Spain's and Portugal's trade with Yugoslavia and Israel and amending Regulations (EEC) No 449/86 and No 2573/87.

The Representatives of the Governments of the Member States, meeting within the Council, adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Decisions laying down the arrangements for Spain's and Portugal's trade with Yugoslavia and Israel as regards products covered by the ECSC Treaty, and amending Decisions 86/69/ECSC and 87/456/ECSC.

The Council approved, on behalf of the Community, the draft Decisions of the EEC-Algeria, EEC-Cyprus, EEC-Egypt, EEC-Israel, EEC-Jordan, EEC-Lebanon, EEC-Malta, EEC-Morocco, EEC-Syria, EEC-Tunisia and EEC-Yugoslavia Co-operation Councils amending, as a consequence of the introduction of the Harmonized System, the Protocol on the definition of the concept of "originating products" and methods of administrative co-operation.

Textiles

The Council adopted, in the official languages of the Communities, the Decision amending Decision 87/60/EEC on the import quotas to be opened by Member States in respect of State-trading countries in 1987.

Trade relations

The Council adopted, in the official languages of the Communities, a Regulation on export arrangements for certain types of non-ferrous metal waste and scrap.

Social affairs

The Council adopted, in the official languages of the Communities, a Resolution on safety, hygiene and health at work.

ECSC

The Council gave its assent, pursuant to Article 56(2)(a) of the ECSC Treaty, with respect to the Banco de Fomento Nacional (Portugal).

INDICATIVE INTERNAL ALLOCATION OF FUNDS

	<u>MECU</u>
I. <u>R&D Sectors</u> ⁽¹⁾	<u>1490</u>
Microelectronics and Peripheral Technologies	475
Information Processing Systems	475
IT Application Technologies	548
II. <u>Staff and Administrative costs</u>	<u>110</u>
Staff costs	64
Administrative costs	38
Total	<u>1600</u>

⁽¹⁾ These figures include approximately 65 MECU for actions in basic research and 80 MECU for accompanying measures related to the three R&D sectors mentioned above.

Bruxelles, le 18 décembre 1987.

433

NOTE BIO(87) 356 AUX BUREAUX NATIONAUX
CC. AUX MEMBRES DU SERVICE DU PORTE-PAROLE

PREPARATION DU CONSEIL RECHERCHE DU 21 DECEMBRE 1987 (W. HELIN)

Qu'il s'agisse du programme BRITE, de la deuxième phase du programme ESPRIT, de la discussion sur l'avenir du Centre Commun de recherche, les Douze ne pourront au plus que donner leur avis politique à ces dossiers. Il faut en effet que ces dossiers passent encore en "deuxième lecture" au Parlement Européen avant d'être formellement approuvés.

- Le succès de BRITE

En ce qui concerne BRITE, rappelons que la Commission Européenne a demandé aux Douze une révision du programme en cours : en substance, dira le Vice-Président Karl-Heinz NARJES, il faut répondre au succès incontestable de ce programme en décidant une enveloppe supplémentaire de 60 millions d'ECUS afin de pouvoir soutenir quelque 66 projets nouveaux sélectionnés en septembre dernier par la Commission Européenne. (voir pour les détails la note IP 389 du 24 septembre 1987)

- ESPRIT II : la Commission se méfie

Pour ce qui est de la deuxième phase d'ESPRIT, il n'y a pas de contestation sur les aspects stratégiques de ce programme ambitieux, lancé en 1984. Les Douze sont bien d'accord pour conforter la Commission Européenne dans les grandes lignes du programme ESPRIT II :

- doter l'industrie européenne des technologies de l'information des technologies de base qui doivent lui permettre d'affronter leurs concurrents américains et japonais dans les années '90;
- promouvoir la coopération industrielle européenne en matière de R&D précompétitive dans ce secteur;
- ouvrir la voie à des normes d'origine européenne, acceptées au niveau international.

Quant au financement de ce programme, les Douze ont déjà marqué leur accord sur l'enveloppe proposée par la Commission Européenne, à savoir quelque 3,2 milliards d'ECUS pour cinq ans, partagés entre le budget de la Communauté Européenne et les partenaires industriels.

En revanche, le dossier se complique quant à la gestion pratique du programme ESPRIT II : il s'agit en particulier du rôle que les Douze comptent accorder au "comité de gestion", un organe composé de représentants de chacun des pays et qui "assiste" la Commission Européenne dans l'exécution concrète des projets.

La Commission Européenne a fait part, dans les débats préparatoires au Conseil, de ses réserves quant à certaines formules proposées, à titre de compromis, par la Présidence danoise.

Cette affaire extrêmement complexe - qui relève, dans le jargon des experts, de la "comitologie" - peut sans doute le mieux s'illustrer par un exemple simple et réel.

L'élément-clé dans l'exécution d'un programme stratégique comme ESPRIT II est la mise au point du programme de travail annuel, qui permet aux équipes mises en place par la Commission Européenne, les industriels, les universités et centres de recherche de piloter en toute clarté l'action. Or, d'it la Commission Européenne, il se pourrait, sur la base du compromis de la Présidence danoise, qu'un temps précieux soit perdu dans la mise au point de ce programme de travail annuel, voire même qu'il soit suspendu pendant un délai indéterminé, parce qu'il pourrait être bloqué par le jeu de majorités simples.

Indépendamment des aspects "institutionnels", il s'agit aussi et surtout, estime la Commission Européenne, d'une affaire qui risque de diminuer la crédibilité de la Communauté à l'égard du partenaire industriel.

Un débat à suivre donc...

- Le nouveau visage du Centre commun de Recherche

Enfin, les Douze doivent procéder à un premier échange de vues sur la proposition que leur a faite la Commission Européenne (voir à ce propos pour les détails la note P-71 d'octobre 1987) quant au visage futur du Centre commun de Recherche.

Rappelons les idées maîtresses retenues par la Commission Européenne : neuf Instituts scientifiques dotés d'un label d'excellence européen, ouverts davantage à des clients extérieurs et bénéficiant d'une plus grande autonomie afin de répondre au double défi de la nouvelle "donnée technologique" mondiale et des soucis légitimes de l'opinion publique face aux accidents industriels néfastes pour l'homme et pour son environnement.

Amitiés,
C.D. EHLHERMANN



Bruxelles, le 21 décembre 1987.

NOTE BIO(87) 356 (suite 1 et fin) AUX BUREAUX NATIONAUX
CC. AUX MEMBRES DU SERVICE DU PORTE-PAROLE

CONSEIL RECHERCHE (O. von Schwerin)

Le Conseil a terminé ses travaux ce soir après six heures de discussions et a réussi à aboutir sur l'ensemble de l'ordre du jour:

1. La révision du programme BRITE visant à une augmentation de l'enveloppe financier de 60 Mio ECU (185 au lieu de 125) été adoptée sans discussion. Devant la presse M. Narjes a souligné le succès extraordinaire de ce programme qui a été manifesté lors du congrès tenu à Bruxelles, au début de la semaine passée et qui a réuni près de 1.200 représentants de l'industrie et des institutions de recherche en se déroulant comme une sorte de bourse entre les intéressés. De plus, 25 projets particuliers ont été présentés à cette occasion: à côté du programme ESPRIT un nouveau grand succès pour la recherche communautaire en faveur de l'industrie européenne.
2. ESPRIT II: le Conseil a arrêté à l'unanimité une position commune pour la 2e phase du programme ESPRIT qui, selon proposition de la Commission, prévoit 1,6 Mrd ECU pour 5 ans en faveur de la recherche dans le domaine des technologies d'information. M. Narjes a souligné que les travaux de 5.500 chercheurs, soit 30% de la recherche précompétitive en Europe est ainsi coordonnée et cofinancée au niveau communautaire. De plus, sur 111 projets 28 ont déjà conduit à des résultats de standardisation: le programme ESPRIT, à part son succès pour la recherche communautaire se manifeste ainsi comme véhicule important à la création des normes et standards communs en Europe. Le Vice-Président a néanmoins regretté que le Conseil ait adopté une formule dans le domaine de la "comitologie" qui donne au Conseil le droit de décider à la majorité simple de s'abstenir d'une décision, et ceci sine die ce qui pourrait comporter le risque d'une impasse difficilement acceptable notamment pour le Parlement européen.
3. Le Conseil a adopté la révision du programme de recherche en matière de PROTECTION RADIOLOGIQUE: augmentation du programme existant de 58 Mio à 68 Mio afin de tenir compte des problèmes supplémentaires causés par l'accident de Chernobyl, et d'être mieux préparé pour le cas où un événement similaire se reproduirait.