

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
GENERAL SECRETARIAT

PRESS RELEASE

7427/89 (Presse 118)

1335th meeting of the Council

- Research -

Luxembourg, 20 June 1989

President: Mr Javier SOLANA MADARIAGA
Minister for Education and
Science of the Kingdom of Spain

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

Belgium:

Mr Pierre CHEVALIER State Secretary for Science Policy, attached to
the Minister for Science Policy

Denmark:

Mr Esper LARSEN Ambassador, Permanent Representative

Germany:

Mr Heinz RIESENHUBER Federal Minister for Research and Technology

Greece:

Mr G. PAPTAEODOROU Secretary-General,
Ministry of Industry, Energy and Technology

Spain:

Mr Javier SOLANA MADARIAGA Minister for Education and Science

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

France:

Mr Hubert CURIEN Minister for Research and Technology

Ireland:

Mr John H.F. CAMPBELL Ambassador, Permanent Representative

Italy:

Mr Antonio RUBERTI Minister for Scientific Research and
Technology

Luxembourg:

Mr Fernand BODEN Minister for Education

Netherlands:

Mr R.W. de KORTE Deputy Prime Minister,
Minister for Economic Affairs

Portugal:

Mr José Pedro SUCENA PAIVA State Secretary for Science and Technology

United Kingdom:

Mr Tony NEWTON Minister for Trade and Industry

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Commission:

Mr Filippo Maria PANDOLFI Vice-President

FUTURE FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME FOR COMMUNITY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

The Council held a wide-ranging policy debate on the basis of the Commission communication of 13 June 1989 entitled "a framework for Community RTD actions in the 90's" and with reference to the mid-term review of the 87-91 framework programme, drawn up at the Commission's request by five eminent scientists.

Vice-President PANDOLFI, introducing these two documents, outlined the Commission's basic ideas for a future framework programme for RTD in the 90's.

During the discussion, all the delegations were able to put their points of view and to stress the points which they considered essential in framing future Community policy in this area.

Concluding the discussion, the President on behalf of the Council, thanked the Commission for the information it had provided, thereby enabling a most fruitful discussion to be held.

The President noted a convergence of views on the basic ideas put forward by the Commission regarding a new framework programme.

The Council requested the Commission to submit specific proposals for such a programme as soon as possible, with due regard for the Community's budgetary rules - particularly the provisions of the interinstitutional agreement - and bearing in mind the review referred to above and the positions expressed by the members of the Council at the meeting.

ADOPTION OF SIX SPECIFIC COMMUNITY R&D PROGRAMMES

The Council adopted the Decisions relating to six Community R&D Programmes on which it had adopted common positions on 14 March ⁽¹⁾ and on which the European Parliament had delivered its Opinions during the second reading under the co-operation procedure:

- EUROTRA - completion of a machine translation system of advanced design
- FLAIR - food science and technology - 1989-93
- VALUE - dissemination and utilization of results from scientific and technological research - 1989-92
- MAST - marine science and technology - 1989-92
- MONITOR - strategic analysis, forecasting and evaluation in matters of research and technology - 1988-92
- DOSES - statistical expert systems - 1989-92

With the adoption of these six programmes and the radiation protection programme (see following point) and the approval of the three common positions on STEP/EPOCH, BRIDGE and RAW MATERIALS (see p. 8 of this press release), the Council has initially completed the implementation of the research activities provided for in the 1987-91 framework programme. It can thus turn its full attention to defining research activities for the 90's, a task already begun in its policy debate on the future framework programme.

(1) For details, see Press Release 5384/89 (Presse 40).

EURATOM PROGRAMME - RADIATION PROTECTION

The Council adopted the specific multiannual research and training programme for the EAEC in the field of radiation protection, which will cover a period of two years from 1 January 1990 and will be allocated a budget of ECU 21,2 million, of which ECU 7,4 million will be for activities concerning human exposure to radiation and radioactivity, ECU 7,4 million for activities concerning the consequences of radiation exposure to man (assessment, prevention and treatment) and ECU 6,4 million for activities concerning the risks and management of radiation exposure.

The aims of the programme are the following:

The Radiation Protection programme (1990-1991) represents a part of the Community research needs in the field of radiation protection for the period 1990-1994, outlined in the Commission's communication (COM(88) 789 final) and aims, by means of a co-operative European research effort, to provide:

- the scientific basis for the continued updating of the "Basic Safety Standards for the Health Protection of the General Public and Workers against Dangers of Ionizing Radiation" and the stimulus for the continued development of radiation protection philosophy and concepts in all Member States, taking into account relative experience in Member States;
- the scientific knowledge needed to assess the carcinogenic and genetic risks to workers and the general public from exposure to low doses and low dose rates of different kinds of radiation arising from natural radiation, medical diagnostic radiology and the nuclear industry;
- the methods to assess risks from radiation accidents as well as the rationales and techniques for the implementation of countermeasures;

- the information necessary to develop radiation protection concepts and practices in response to demands created, for example, by innovative applications of radiation in medicine and industry;
- the objective scientific background to help the relevant national authorities reach rational decisions on the operation of the nuclear industry, on the development of environmental criteria for radioactivity, on the management of rare emergency situations, and on the objective information to be given to the public about the risks and benefits of nuclear applications;
- the incentive and the support for co-operation between scientists and research institutions from the different Member States, and the advanced training necessary to maintain competence in the Community, including improved and comprehensive training of young scientists in the field of radiation protection;
- efficient use and appropriate documentation of the knowledge acquired under this and previous Community radiation protection programmes which could contribute to a better common understanding of the scientific issues and lead to improved information to the general public on these matters.

The extent to which the programme attains the above objectives will be evaluated by independent experts in accordance with the Community plan of action relating to the evaluation of Community research and development activities.

SPECIFIC COMMUNITY R&D PROGRAMMES (STEP-EPOCH, BRIDGE, RAW MATERIALS)

The Council established common positions on the three programmes in question, which will be forwarded to the European Parliament under the co-operation procedure.

STEP-EPOCH

This double programme, which will be the subject of a single Decision, will cover a period of 4 years and will have a total budget of ECU 115 million, including a staff complement of 28 persons, allocated as follows:

STEP - Science and Technology for Environmental Protection: ECU 75 million and 19 staff,

EPOCH - European Programme on Climatology and Natural Hazards: ECU 40 million and 9 staff.

The objectives of the two programmes are the following:

Environmental issues in one form or another, whether air pollution, water quality or the greenhouse effect, pervade almost every aspect of human life. This is reflected in the objectives outlined below which are shared by the two programmes. STEP (Science and Technology for Environmental Protection) and EPOCH (European Programme on Climatology and Natural Hazards).

The criteria against which the programmes should be evaluated should reflect these objectives and the wider objectives of the Framework Programme.

1. An important objective of the two programmes is the provision of scientific and technical support for the environmental policy of the community, and for other relevant community policies such as energy, agriculture, industry, aid to developing countries, both for the solution of short term policy questions and for the medium and long-term formulation of preventive and anticipatory policies.

Taking into account the general goals of the separate research areas of the programmes, the evaluation criteria should consist of the following:

- the scientific and technical progress made, contributing to the solution of short term policy questions;
 - the advances in the understanding of environmental processes as a basis for the medium and long-term formulation of preventive and anticipatory policies;
 - the contribution to the definition of norms and standards.
2. A further objective is the continued improvement of the productivity of the overall research effort in the Community, the reduction of overlaps and the identification of gaps, through the co-ordination of the national R&D programmes in the field of environmental research;

The co-ordination of national R & D programmes will be evaluated by criteria such as:

- the added value due to co-ordination which was not obtainable in one national programme alone;
 - the division of research tasks between national programmes as a result of co-ordination.
3. A central objective of the programmes would be to assess the extent to which they have encouraged overall scientific excellence in the field of environmental research and how far attainment of that objective contributed to:
- the strengthening of the economic and social cohesion of the Community;
 - the strengthening of industrial competitiveness within the Community.

The indicative allocation of funds is as follows:

STEP

RESEARCH AREA 1: Environment and human health

5%

RESEARCH AREA 2: assesement of risks associated with chemicals

10%

RESEARCH AREA 3: atmospheric processes and air quality

20%

RESEARCH AREA 4: water quality

5%

RESEARCH AREA 5: soil and groundwater protection

8%

RESEARCH AREA 6: ecosystem research

12%

RESEARCH AREA 7: protection and conservation of the European
cultural heritage

8%

RESEARCH AREA 8: technologies for environmental protection

12%

RESEARCH AREA 9: major technological hazards and fire safety

20%

EPOCH

RESEARCH AREA 1: past climates and climate change
15%

RESEARCH AREA 2: climate processes and models
30%

RESEARCH AREA 3: climatic impacts and climate-related hazards
40%

RESEARCH AREA 4: seismic hazard
15%

BRIDGE

This programme in the field of biotechnology will cover a period of 4 years from 1 January 1990, with a budget of ECU 100 million, including a staff complement of 28 persons.

The breakdown for the different actions under the programme is as follows:

ACTION I: Research and training

- Research contracts	ECU 76,5 million
including	
= pre-normative research	ECU 15,5 million

(safety assessments associated with the release of genetically engineered organisms, in vitro evaluation of the toxicity and pharmacological activity of molecules)

= cellular biology ECU 27,0 million

(physiology and molecular genetics of industrial microorganisms, basic biology of plants and associated organisms, biotechnology of animal cells)

= enabling technologies ECU 27,0 million

(protein design/molecular modelling, biotransformation, gene mapping, genome sequencing, novel cloning methods)

= information infrastructure ECU 7,0 million

(culture collections, processing and analyses of bio(techno)logical data)

= training activities ECU 12,0 million

= COST activities ECU 2,0 million

(marine primary biomass, in vitro cultures for the purification and propagation of plants, methods for early detection and identification of plant diseases, vesicular-arbuscular (VA) mycorrhizae, development of vaccines against coccidiosis)

ACTION II : Concertation ECU 9,5 million

RAW MATERIALS AND RECYCLING

This programme will cover a period of 3 years from 1 January 1990 with a budget of ECU 45 million, including a staff complement of 17 persons.

The content of the programme and the budget breakdown are as follows (in million of ecus):

A. <u>PRIMARY RAW MATERIALS</u>	21
1. <u>EXPLORATION</u>	7
1.1. Ore genesis	
1.2. Geochemical methods	
1.3. Geophysical methods	
1.4. Remote sensing and multidata correlation	
1.5. Drilling technology	
2. <u>MINING TECHNOLOGY</u>	7
2.1. Development of new mining methods and improvement of existing ones	
2.2. Rock fracturing	
2.3. Support systems	
2.4. Load and transportation systems	
2.5. Modelling and simulations in mining operations	
2.6. Specific equipment for small-size mines	

3. <u>MINERAL PROCESSING AND EXTRACTIVE METALLURGY</u>	7
3.1. Process innovation and process intensification	
3.2. Processing of high purity metals and multielement compounds	
3.3. Industrial minerals	
3.4. Treatment of metallurgical residues and tailings	
3.5. Modelling, simulation and automatic control in mineral processing and extractive metallurgy	
B. <u>RECYCLING OF NON-FERROUS AND STRATEGIC METALS</u>	6
1. Characterization and classification of secondary materials and physical separation and concentration	2
2. Advanced pyrometallurgical processes	1
3. Advanced hydrometallurgical processes	2
4. Refining technologies and instrumentation on control of the processes	1
C. <u>RENEWABLE RAW MATERIALS: FORESTRY AND WOOD PRODUCTS (including Cork)</u>	12
1. <u>FOREST RESOURCES</u>	4
1.1. Tree improvement	
1.2. Planning and management	
1.3. Forest protection	
2. <u>WOOD AND CORK TECHNOLOGIES</u>	4
2.1. Quality assessment	
2.2. Processing technology	
3. <u>PULP AND PAPER MANUFACTURING</u>	4
3.1. Improvement in pulping and bleaching	
3.2. Improvement of paper manufacture and coating	

D. <u>RECYCLING OF WASTE</u>	6
1. <u>SAMPLING, ANALYSIS AND CLASSIFICATION OF WASTE; WASTE STATISTICS</u>	1
1.1. Household and urban waste	
1.2. Industrial waste	
1.3. Emissions and residues from waste processing	
2. <u>RECYCLING TECHNOLOGIES</u>	4
2.1. Separation and recovery	
2.2. Upgrading and use of reclaimed products	
2.3. Production of chemicals	
2.4. Prevention of emissions from recycling processes	
2.5. Upgrading of lignocellulosic waste (COST Project 84)	
2.6. Composting	
3. <u>ENERGY PRODUCTION FROM WASTE</u>	1
3.1. Production and combustion of refuse derived fuels (RDF)	
3.2. Pyrolysis and gasification	
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TOTAL	45
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COST AND THE EUROPEAN TECHNOLOGY COMMUNITY

The Council adopted the Resolution concerning co-operation in the field of scientific and technical research (COST) and the European Communities, the text of which is given below:

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Commission's communication entitled "COST and the European Technology Community" submitted to the Council on 18 April 1988,

Having regard to the general resolution on scientific and technical research and development projects adopted by the Conference of European Research Ministers on 22/23 November 1971,

Having regard to the approval by the Council of the four categories of co-operation within the COST framework,

Having regard to the conclusions of the Committee of Senior Officials on the future role of COST adopted on 23 and 24 June 1986,

Whereas the response by the President of the Council in his letter of 19 November 1986 relating to the conclusions of the COST Senior Officials on the future role of COST stressed its important complementary role in relation to other forms of Community scientific and technical (S & T) activity and its valuable role in the promotion of co-operation in research and development (R & D) projects both between Member States and with other non-Community countries;

Whereas a report reviewing COST co-operation since its beginnings has pointed to the increasing numbers of projects carried out within the COST framework and has, in addition, underlined the strategic and organizational challenge facing COST;

Whereas the COST Senior Officials Committee has examined the communication of the Commission on COST and has set out its views in its Chairman's letter, dated 16 January 1989, addressed to the President of the Council;

Whereas practical initiatives have been taken within the COST framework in recent times in relation to new areas for research, increased publicity and the setting up of more efficient decision-making processes;

REAFFIRMS its view that COST is an important means for promoting European co-operation in the field of scientific and technical research and recognizes the specific advantages of COST, in terms of its flexibility and informality, the possibilities it affords for optional participation in its activities, its responsiveness to scientists' needs, and its economic efficiency;

URGES the Commission to take into account the complementary role that COST can play in respect of Community R & D policy, in particular when considering any future proposals for the revision of the Framework Programme;

WELCOMES both the positive attitude towards COST in the Commission's communication and the Commission's intention to continue and to strengthen its support for the technical and administrative secretariats of COST projects, which is an essential component of the future success of COST;

RECOGNIZES that certain practical measures may be necessary to improve the functioning of COST and to meet the challenge of the changing context of international R & D co-operation;

ENDORSES and approves, therefore, the views expressed by the COST Senior Officials in relation to the simplification and redefinition of the categories of COST actions. These comprise two categories - A & B - as follows:

- concerted action projects forming an integral part of a Community R & D programme, which are open on a multilateral basis to COST third state participation (Category A),
- concerted action projects, not forming part of a Community programme, proposed either by COST States or by the Commission. Individual COST States and the Commission may participate in these projects (Category B);

INVITES the COST Senior Officials Committee and the Commission to pursue its examination of:

- new areas for scientific and technical research appropriate for the COST framework,
- specific improvements to the functioning of COST, in particular the administration and management of projects;

RECOGNIZES the need for increased efforts to be made at the national level to publicize COST, thus ensuring that the scientific community and national policy-makers are better informed of COST activities;

RECOGNIZES the advantages of opening COST category B projects to participation for non-COST States, in particular from other European States on a case by case basis where there is a clear scientific justification and where the benefits are mutual;

INVITES all COST States and the Commission to give full support to the future development of the COST framework of S & T co-operation.