

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
GENERAL SECRETARIAT

PRESS RELEASE

5810/91 (Presse 53)

1485th Council meeting

- RESEARCH -

Luxembourg, 24 April 1991

President: Mr René STEICHEN

Minister responsible for Scientific
Research and Technology
of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg

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

Belgium:

Mr Eric DE RIJCKE
State Secretary, attached to the Minister for
Science Policy

Denmark:

Mr Bertel HAARDER
Minister for Research

Germany:

Mr Heinz RIESENHUBER
Federal Minister for Research
and Technology

Greece:

Mr Stavros DIMAS
Minister for Industry, Energy
and Technology

Spain:

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

France:

Mr Hubert CURIEN
Minister for Research and Technology

Ireland:

Mr Michael SMITH
Minister of State for Science
and Technology

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IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME ON RESEARCH AND
TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT (1990-1994)

- INTERINSTITUTIONAL COMPROMISE ON THE SPECIFIC PROGRAMMES

The Council endorsed the interinstitutional political compromise signed in Strasbourg on 17 April 1991 by the Presidents of the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission to resolve the differences between the institutions which had emerged during the co-operation procedure on the specific research programmes in the following areas:

- marine science and technology
- environment
- life sciences and technologies for developing countries
- development of telematics systems
- communications technologies.

During the discussion, Vice-President PANDOLFI also stated that the Commission accepted the agreement. The European Parliament is expected to state its position formally on this matter at its May part-session. It should therefore be possible to adopt the five programmes in the near future.

The provisions of the interinstitutional agreement will be incorporated by the Council in the five specific programmes mentioned above.

These aspects will also be taken into account in the five programmes discussed at this meeting.

Lastly, the provisions to be adopted for the other specific programmes still to be decided upon pursuant to the third framework programme should also be based on the provisions of the interinstitutional agreement.

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- COMMON POSITIONS FOR A SECOND SERIES OF SPECIFIC PROGRAMMES

Continuing the implementation of the third RDT framework programme for 1990-1994, specifying the activities to be pursued for developing the scientific knowledge and technical know-how needed by the Community, the Council discussed 5 common positions concerning specific programmes covering the following areas:

- Information technologies
- Biomedicine and health
- Non-nuclear energy
- Industrial and materials technologies
- Agriculture and agro-industry

The Council adopted common positions on the first two programmes.

As regards the other three, the Council reached agreement on the substance, and the common positions will be adopted shortly, once the texts have been finalized.

The common positions will be forwarded to the European Parliament for its part-session from 13 to 17 May.

The programmes involve an amount of ECU 2 618,55 million out of a total of ECU 5 700 million in the framework programme and have a number of characteristics in common, some of which are covered by the interinstitutional agreement.

Thus, as regards administration of the programmes by the Commission, the agreement specifies that the committees to assist the Commission will be type I (i.e. consultative) for non-nuclear energy, biomedicine and health and type III A (regulatory committees) for industrial technologies and materials and for agriculture and agro-industry; for information technologies the

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procedure will be type III A, except for the preparation of the work programme, which will follow the ESPRIT II model.

As regards relations with third countries, the Commission is authorized to negotiate, in accordance with Article 130n of the Treaty, agreements with third countries which are COST members, particularly the EFTA countries and the countries of Central and Eastern Europe, with the aim of associating them with all or part of the programmes ⁽¹⁾.

The Commission is required to assess the economic and social impact and possible technological risks in the context of all the specific research programmes.

- Specific programme on information technologies

The amount deemed necessary to implement the programme is ECU 1 338,48 million, including ECU 94 million for administrative and staff expenditure.

The programme's key objectives are given below, with an indicative breakdown of the amount involved:

Area 1: Micro-electronics, with three main strategic actions: ECU 388 million

- strengthening of a European technology base on which manufacturing capability of leading edge ICs can be based
- strengthening capabilities with respect to the chain of designing, manufacturing, testing and applying advanced and reliable integrated circuits
- drawing on all the resources available, ensuring wide participation of the largest

(1) As regards Area 3 (Human genome analysis) of the specific programme on biomedicine and health, the Commission is also authorized to negotiate with other third countries and international organizations.

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number of potential actors (large and small industries, both producers and users, universities and research centres).

Area 2: Information processing systems and software,
with the following main lines of action: ECU 335 million

- exploiting potential technological breakthroughs in concurrent architectures
- providing better interfaces to satisfy the needs of end-users
- promoting the take up of new software production technologies.

Area 3: Advanced business and home systems:
Peripherals ECU 227,48 million

Advanced Business and Home Systems will aim for function integration in the business environment as well as in and with the home environment with especially high priority being given to prenormative work.

Area 4: Computer-integrated manufacturing
and engineering ECU 254 million

The activities aim at providing the technology base for open systems, multivendor systems and distributed operations in engineering and manufacturing environments as well as to contribute to better integration of advanced IT systems components in engineering industries.

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Area 5: Basic research

ECU 134 million

Projects in this area will be selected on the basis of their potential to produce future breakthroughs or important advances even if they have no immediately visible application; their ability to benefit from the added value which co-operation on a European scale provides; their positioning clearly upstream of R&D efforts, while contributing to the overall aims of the programme; the reinforcement of interdisciplinary links.

TOTAL ⁽¹⁾ ECU 1 338,48 million

- Specific programme on biomedicine and health

The amount deemed necessary to implement the programme is ECU 131,67 million, including ECU 13 million for administrative and staff expenditure.

The programme's key objectives are given below, with an indicative breakdown of the amount involved:

Area 1: Prevention, care and health systems

ECU 28 million

This area covers the harmonization of methodologies and protocols in epidemiological, biological, clinical and technological research.

Area 2: Major health problems and diseases of great socio-economic impact

ECU 72 million

(a) AIDS

(ECU 22 million)

The research will take into account the activities already developed by the Community and will be spread over five main sectors:

- disease prevention
- basic research
- clinical research
- the development of a European Vaccine against AIDS (EVA)
- trials of Antiviral Drugs in AIDS Management (ADAM).

(1) A sum of ECU 13,52 million, not included in the ECU 1 338,48 million, will be earmarked for the centralized scheme for the dissemination and exploitation of the results of this programme.

(b) Cancer

Epidemiology and basic research on genomic and phenotypic changes in cancer cells (invasion and metastasis) and immune surveillance will be extended.

(c) Cardiovascular disease

The various forms of heart and circulatory disease will be studied, focusing on research where coherent broadly-based clinical and epidemiological surveys are most useful.

(d) Mental illness and neurological disease

The aim of such studies will be to improve understanding of the causes of mental illness and also the evolution from pathology to disability and social disadvantage, and to develop new methods of prevention and care.

(e) The ageing process, and age-related health problems and handicaps

Comparative research will be carried out on perinatal illnesses (including study of the consequences of prenatal diagnosis) and paediatric illnesses and on the effectiveness of prophylactic and therapeutic measures.

The overall target of research in the field of ageing will be centred on preventing and coping with dependency.

Area 3: Human genome analysis

ECU 28 million

Emphasis will be placed on medical applications which contribute to the well-being of patients, in co-ordination with other elements of the specific programme, to ensure that advances in genetics are used to enhance human health.

Area 4: Research on biomedical ethics

ECU 3,67 million

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Work will deal with:

- evaluation of questions of biomedical ethics linked with the present programme
- evaluation of the social impact of the programme and the risks (including the technological risks) which might be associated with it.

TOTAL ⁽¹⁾ ECU 131,67 million

- Specific programme on non-nuclear energy

The amount deemed necessary to implement the programme is ECU 155,43 million, including ECU 18 million for administrative and staff expenditure.

The programme's key objectives are given below, with an indicative breakdown of the amount involved:

Area 1: Analysis of strategies and modelling ECU 9 million

The aim of these activities is to define energy R&D strategies and to analyse national or Community policies dealing with energy and the environment.

Area 2: Minimum emission power production from fossil sources ECU 36 million

With the development and extension of projects already carried out pursuant to the JOULE programme, this research aims at optimizing energy production from fossil sources and reducing the adverse effects on the environment of the widespread use of fossil fuels.

Area 3: Renewable energy sources, with the following particular objectives: ECU 57,43 million

- to increase the conversion efficiency of solar, wind, mini-hydraulic, wave, tidal, biomass and geothermal systems,

(1) A sum of ECU 1,33 million, not included in the ECU 131,67 million, will be earmarked for the centralized scheme for the dissemination and exploitation of the results of this programme.

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- to decrease their costs and improve their attractiveness to developers, industry and consumers.

Area 4: Energy utilization and conservation
with the following objectives:

ECU 53 million

- to develop highly efficient and clean electrochemical energy conversion systems for electricity generation, cogeneration, hydrogen and methanol production, transport and industrial electrochemical reactors.
- to develop and improve technologies and modelling tools which are expected to have a major impact on heat and electricity savings and on reducing pollution.

TOTAL ⁽¹⁾ ECU 155,43 million

- Specific programme on industrial and materials technologies

The amount deemed necessary to implement the programme is ECU 663,3 million, including ECU 35 million for administrative and staff expenditure.

The programme's key objectives are given below, with an indicative breakdown of the amount involved:

Area 1: Materials - raw materials

- raw materials and recycling ECU 80 million
- materials ECU 228,8 million

The objective is to contribute to improving the performance of materials at a cost which permits competitive industrial exploitation over a broad range of applications not restricted to a few high-performance items.

As regards raw materials, research will seek to improve the technologies necessary to ensure the supply of resources, including technologies to locate and extract deposits, processing and treatment by economic means that are safe and environmentally acceptable.

(1) A sum of ECU 1,57 million, not included in the ECU 155,43 million, will be earmarked for the centralized scheme for the dissemination and exploitation of the results of this programme.

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Area 2: Design and manufacturing

The objective is to improve the capability of industry to design and manufacture products which are, at the same time, of high quality, easy to maintain, highly competitive and environmentally and socially acceptable. ECU 301,5 million

Area 3: Aeronautics research with the following objectives: ECU 53 million

- to contribute to strengthening the technology base of the European aeronautical industry
- to contribute to the knowledge base which supports actions to minimize environmental impact
- to enhance the safety and efficiency of aircraft operations
- to promote further co-operation between large high-technology companies and smaller companies, SMUs and research institutions/universities throughout the Community.

TOTAL ⁽¹⁾ ECU 663,3 million

- Specific programme on agriculture and agro-industry

The amount deemed necessary to implement the programme is ECU 329,67 million, including ECU 20 million for administrative and staff expenditure.

The programme's key objectives are given below, with an indicative breakdown of the amount involved:

Area 1: Primary production in agriculture, horticulture, forestry, fisheries and aquaculture ECU 100 million

Work under this heading aims at adapting primary production

(1) A sum of ECU 6,7 million, not included in the ECU 663,3 million, will be earmarked for the centralized scheme for the dissemination and exploitation of the results of this programme.

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to the quantitative and qualitative demands of the market and the consumers. Account will be taken of Community policies and the need for their evolution, including those for agriculture and fisheries, having regard to the internal market.

Area 2: Inputs to agriculture, horticulture, forestry, fisheries and aquaculture ECU 65 million

Work under this heading will contribute to the competitiveness and viability of undertakings in agriculture, forestry, fisheries and aquaculture through better control of inputs and a reduction in production costs. Specific attention will be paid to the needs of less-favoured and marginal rural and coastal areas.

Area 3: Processing of biological raw materials from agriculture, horticulture, forestry, fisheries and aquaculture ECU 100 million

The aim is to provide, through precompetitive R&D, the basis for processes (including transport and storage) for new or improved, competitive products in the food, non-food and energy sectors.

Area 4: End use and final products ECU 64,67 million

The objective is to generate a better knowledge of the characteristics, as needed by users and consumers, with particular reference to public health and the environment, of final products derived from biological materials (food and non-food, including energy, forest and horticultural products).

TOTAL ⁽¹⁾ ECU 329,67 million

(1) A sum of ECU 3,33 million, not included in the ECU 329,67 million, will be earmarked for the centralized scheme for the dissemination and exploitation of the results of this programme.

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Of this total ECU 45 million will be earmarked for demonstration projects of relevance to the four areas the aim of which will be to demonstrate, on a scale close to reality, the technical reliability and economic viability of a new product and/or new technology which has been proved feasible on a small scale.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISION

EEC-Mexico relations

The Council decided to sign, subject to conclusion, the framework agreement for co-operation between the European Economic Community and the United Mexican States. Signature will take place in Luxembourg on 26 April 1991 (13.15) on the occasion of the first institutionalized ministerial meeting between the Community and the Rio Group.

The Council also decided to consult the European Parliament on this agreement.

Bruxelles, le 22 avril 1991

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NOTE BIO(91) 133 AUX BUREAUX NATIONAUX
CC. AUX MEMBRES DU SERVICE DU PORTE-PAROLE

PREPARATION DU CONSEIL RECHERCHE DU 24 AVRIL 1991 (Viviana d'Udekem)

Le Conseil se réunira à Luxembourg. Il entamera ses travaux à 10h sous la présidence de Monsieur René STEICHEN, Ministre délégué à la Recherche du Grand-Duché de Luxembourg. La Commission sera représentée par le Vice-Président Filippo Maria PANDOLFI.

Cinq propositions de programmes spécifiques de Recherche et Développement Technologique (RDT) seront sur la table des douze pour l'établissement de positions communes. Il s'agit de programmes de recherche mettant en oeuvre pour les années 1990-1994 le IIIème Programme Cadre de RDT de la Communauté dans les domaines suivants :

- Technologies de l'information (1352 MECU)
- Biomédecine et santé (133 MECU)
- Energies non-nucléaires (157 MECU)
- Technologies Industrielles et matériaux (748 MECU)
- Agriculture et agro-Industrie (333 MECU).

Pour mémoire, rappelons que le IIIème Programme Cadre de RDT de la Communauté, couvrant une période de cinq années 1990-1994, est doté d'un budget de 5,7 milliards d'ECU; que ce Programme Cadre est destiné à être mis en oeuvre par le biais de 15 programmes spécifiques. Les propositions relatives à ces programmes ont toutes été présentées par la Commission dans le courant du 1er semestre 1990.

A ce jour, cinq de ces propositions ont déjà fait l'objet de positions communes du Conseil :

- Technologies de communications (489 MECU)
- Développement des systèmes télématiques d'intérêt général (380 MECU)
- Environnement (414 MECU)
- Sciences et technologies marines (104 MECU)
- Sciences et technologies du vivant pour les pays en développement (111 MECU).

Suite à l'accord politique conclu, sur certaines divergences apparues entre les Institutions au cours de la procédure de coopération relative à ces cinq programmes, par les Présidents des trois Institutions (M. Delors, M. Baron Crespo et M. Steichen) lors de la réunion qu'ils ont eue à Strasbourg le mercredi 17 avril 1991, on peut s'attendre à ce que le Parlement Européen procède à une lecture finale de ces cinq propositions de programmes de recherche lors de sa session plénière de mai 1991 et que le Conseil puisse adopter à leur égard une décision finale fin mai 1991.

De plus amples informations sur le contenu de chacun de ces programmes sont disponibles dans la note de background annexée à la note P(90) 23.

Amitiés,

Bruno DETHOMAS



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NOTE BIO(91) 133 (SUIT 1 ET FIN) AUX BUREAUX NATIONAUX
CC. AUX MEMBRES DU SERVICE DU PORTE-PAROLE

CONSEIL RECHERCHE DU 24 AVRIL 1991 (V. D'UDEKEM)

LE CONSEIL, REUNI A LUXEMBOURG, A MARQUE SON ACCORD SUR LE
COMPROMIS POLITIQUE INTERINSTITUTIONNEL SIGNE A STRASBOURG LE 17
AVRIL 1991 PAR LES PRESIDENTS DU PARLEMENT EUROPEEN, DU CONSEIL
ET DE LA COMMISSION.

LE VICE-PRESIDENT PANDOLFI A EGALEMENT FAIT ETAT DE L'ACCEPTATION
DU COMPROMIS PAR LA COMMISSION.

EN CE QUI CONCERNE LE PARLEMENT EUROPEEN, ON PEUT S'ATTENDRE A CE
QU'IL SE PRONONCE A CE SUJET FORMELLEMENT LORS DE SA SESSION
PLENIERE DU MOIS DE MAI.

CECI DEVRAIT ALORS PERMETTRE UNE ADOPTION DEFINITIVE DES CINQ
PROGRAMMES SPECIFIQUES AU SUJET DESQUELS ETAIENT SURVENUES DES
DIVERGENCES ENTRE LES INSTITUTIONS AU COURS DE LA PROCEDURE DE
COOPERATION. IL S'AGIT DES CINQ PROGRAMMES SPECIFIQUES DE RDT
SUIVANTS :

- TECHNOLOGIES DES COMMUNICATIONS
- DEVELOPPEMENT DES SYSTEMES TELEMATIQUES D'INTERET GENERAL

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- ENVIRONNEMENT
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DES POSITIONS COMMUNES ONT ETE ADOPTEES FORMELLEMENT PAR LES DOUZE SUR LES PROGRAMMES :

- TECHNOLOGIES DE L'INFORMATION
- BIOMEDECINE ET SANTE.

UN ACCORD POLITIQUE S'EST DEGAGE SUR LES PROGRAMMES :

- TECHNOLOGIES INDUSTRIELLES ET MATERIAUX
- AGRICULTURE ET AGRO-INDUSTRIE
- ENERGIES NON-NUCLEAIRES

CES POSITIONS COMMUNES SERONT ADOPTEES FORMELLEMENT COMME POINTS A LORS D'UN PROCHAIN CONSEIL.

AU DEJEUNER, LES DOUZE ONT DISCUTE DE LA PARTICIPATION AUX PROJETS COMMUNAUTAIRES DE RDT DES FIRMES EUROPEENNES APPARTENANT A DES RESSORTISSANTS NON-EUROPEENS. SUR CE POINT, LE VICE-PRESIDENT PANDOLFI A RAPPELE LA POSITION EXPRIMEE PAR LA COMMISSION A DIVERSES REPRISES DANS LE CADRE DE SESSIONS DU PARLEMENT EUROPEEN.

AINSI, LEUR PARTICIPATION A DES PROJETS DE RECHERCHE CE, NECESSITE L'ACCORD DES AUTRES PARTENAIRES. EST EVALUEE AU CAS PAR CAS, EN CONSIDERANT TOUT D'ABORD SI LA SOCIETE REUNIT TOUS LES ELEMENTS POUR POUVOIR ETRE CONSIDEREE COMME ETABLIE DANS LA COMMUNAUTE.

DANS LE CAS PRECIS D'ICL, C'EST SELON CETTE LIGNE QU'A ETE EVALUEE SA PARTICIPATION A NOS PROJETS DE RDT. IL N'Y A PAS EU DE DISCRIMINATION A PRIORI, NI D'EXCLUSION DE PRINCIPE.

AMITIES,

B. DETHOMAS

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