

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES  
GENERAL SECRETARIAT

PRESS RELEASE

10597/81 (Presse 140)

736th meeting of the Council

- Research -

Brussels, 9 November 1981

President: Mr Kenneth BAKER,  
Minister 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 Philippe MAYSTADT  
Minister of the Civil Service and  
for Policy on Science, responsible  
for Environment Co-ordination

Denmark:

Mr Otto MØLLER  
State Secretary,  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Germany:

Mr Hans-Hilger HAUNSCHILD  
State Secretary,  
Federal Ministry of Research and  
Technology

Greece:

Mr Evangelos KOULOUMBIS  
Minister for Research and  
Technology

France:

Mr Jean-Pierre CHEVENEMENT  
Minister for Technology

Ireland:

Mr Barry DESMOND  
Minister of State,  
Department of Finance

Italy:

Mr Giancarlo TESINI  
Minister for Scientific Research

Luxembourg:

Mr Jean DONDELINGER  
Ambassador,  
Permanent Representative

Netherlands:

Mr J.C. TERLOUW

Deputy Prime Minister,  
Minister for Economic Affairs

United Kingdom:

Mr Kenneth BAKER

Minister for Industry and  
Information Technology

Mr John WAKEHAM

State Secretary,  
Department of Industry

Commission:

Vicomte Etienne DAVIGNON

Vice-President

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GUIDELINES FOR SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL RESEARCH

On the basis of the Commission communication of 12 October 1981 entitled "Scientific and Technical Research and the European Community - Proposals for the 1980's", the Council held a wide-ranging policy discussion on the broad outlines for the planning and organization of Community research activities in coming years.

The discussion concentrated essentially on the need to define a Community R & D strategy and the objectives and scope of the latter and took place within the framework of the current proceedings under the 30 May Mandate. It was understood that the guidelines emerging in the course of the Council's discussions would be taken into consideration by the Working Party on the Mandate and by the Foreign Affairs Council in preparing the discussions of the European Council to be held in London on 26 and 27 November 1981.

In his summing up, the President of the Council noted that a broad consensus existed on:

- the need to develop scientific and technical research at Community level in order to support the policy objectives of the Community and the Member States, in particular in areas where Community activity offered advantages as compared with other forms of action, be they national or co-ordinated amongst the States;
- the encouragement to be given to the Community's plans to improve the efficiency of the Community's R & D activities and particularly its catalyzing role as regards Member States' research activities;
- a wish that the Commission develop its ideas and submit concrete proposals - which the Council might examine at its next meeting - in particular on the following areas:

- = the concept of a general framework programme involving an overall strategy
- = the stimulation of the efficiency of the European research system
- = optimum utilization of the resources available
- = co-ordination between national policies
- = orientation of the R & D programmes towards the needs of industrial innovation
- = consideration of the social consequences of scientific developments.

The discussion also highlighted the need to improve the consultation machinery for preparing the Community's R & D policies and the Council urged the Commission to ensure that its ideas were soundly backed by the necessary scientific and technical opinions. It also stressed the importance of the Commission's continuing its efforts to improve the dissemination of information within the Community.

A major topic of discussion was mobility within the scientific Community and the Commission was asked to make suitable proposals to promote such mobility.

With respect to the funds to be assigned to scientific and technical research, the Council acknowledged that the Community's efforts to develop research activities might also have financial implications. It would take a decision on this question once it received the proposals the Commission was due to submit in the next few months.

On a general note, the Council agreed to meet more frequently in order to play an active role in defining and implementing the new scientific and technical strategy necessary for the industrial prosperity of the Community.

COMMUNITY ACTION IN THE FIELD OF MICROELECTRONIC TECHNOLOGY

As a first practical step towards implementation of its Resolution of September 1979 on microelectronic technology, the Council recorded its agreement <sup>(1)</sup> on a Regulation concerning Community projects in this field.

In order to attain the Community objectives in this domain, the Regulation makes provision for co-ordination at Community level of the activities undertaken by the Member States and for the implementation of Community projects to supplement and reinforce these activities.

With a view to attaining the objective of co-ordination, a system for information and consultation concerning initiatives aimed at promoting the diffusion and the development of microelectronic technology and its applications has been established between the Member States and the Commission. Under this system, the Member States are obliged to supply the Commission with all relevant information concerning activities aimed at:

- the promotion of applied industrial research and development on equipment, processes, instruments and techniques, both hardware and software, for use in the design, industrial manufacture and testing of advanced integrated circuits;
- the dissemination of basic knowledge and the training and education of management and staff specializing in the design, utilization and testing of advanced integrated circuits;
- the encouragement of the establishment within the Community of an industry capable of designing and producing the equipment, materials and techniques used in the manufacture of advanced integrated circuits.

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<sup>(1)</sup> The Danish delegation gave its agreement ad referendum.

The joint projects receiving Community support will be high-priority key projects; they will qualify for Community aid in the form of subsidies normally covering 30% of the costs of their execution, but possibly as much as 50% in certain cases. The appropriations necessary for this financial support will amount to 40 MECU, which corresponds to the amount adopted by the European Parliament at its first reading of the draft budget for 1982.

These projects cover the following sectors:

- step and repeat on wafer
- electron beam for direct-writing on wafer
- plasma etching and deposition
- test equipment
- Computer Aided Design (CAD) for Very Large Scale Integration circuitry (VLSI) in the domains of
  - = Architecture
  - = Language and Data Structure
  - = Testing
  - = Device modelling.

BIOMOLECULAR ENGINEERING PROGRAMME

The Council recorded its agreement <sup>(1)</sup> on a multiannual research and training programme in the field of biomolecular engineering, taking the form of indirect action.

This programme, the first of its kind, covers a four-year period; it will be implemented in two stages: the first extending from 1 April 1982 until the revision to be carried out not later than 31 March 1984 and the second stage extending from the revision until 31 March 1986. The appropriations of 8 MECU currently provided for implementation of the programme already adopted are designed to cover the first phase; the amount will be re-evaluated when the programme is revised.

The programme comprises the following projects:

- Development of new reactors using immobilized multienzyme systems including those requiring multiphase environment and cofactor regeneration,
- Development of bioreactors for human detoxification,
- The transfer of genes from diverse sources to the bacterium *escherichia coli*, the yeast *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* and other suitable organisms,
- Development of cloning systems,
- Gene transfer to micro-organisms and in plants important to agriculture,
- Improvement of methods for detecting contamination and for the assessment of possible risks associated with applications in agriculture and industry of biomolecular engineering.

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<sup>(1)</sup> The Danish delegation gave its agreement ad referendum.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Commercial policy and customs union

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

- amending Regulation (EEC) No 3439/80 imposing a definitive anti-dumping duty on imports of certain polyester yarn originating in the United States of America;
- extending the period of validity of the provisional anti-dumping duty on phenol originating in the United States of America.

The Council also adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Regulation implementing Decision No 1/81 of the EEC-Morocco Co-operation Council derogating from certain provisions concerning the definition of the concept of originating products contained in the Co-operation Agreement between the European Economic Community and the Kingdom of Morocco.

Finally, the Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Regulations opening, allocating and providing for the administration of Community tariff quotas for the year 1982 for:

- silver hake (*Merluccius bilinearis*) falling within subheading ex 03.01 B I q) of the Common Customs Tariff;
- frozen cod fillets falling within subheading 03.01 B II b) 1 of the Common Customs Tariff;
- dried grapes in immediate containers of a net capacity of 15 kg or less falling within subheading 08.04 B I of the Common Customs Tariff;
- rosin (including "brais résineux") falling within subheading 38.08 A of the Common Customs Tariff,

and increasing the Community tariff quota, opened for 1981, for ferro-chromium containing not less than 4% by weight of carbon, falling within subheading ex 73.02 E I of the Common Customs Tariff.

### Agricultural policy

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

- relating to the financing by the European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund, Guarantee Section, of certain intervention measures, particularly those involving the buying-in, storage and sale of agricultural products by intervention agencies;
- amending Regulation (EEC) No 2915/79 as regards the annual tariff quota for Cheddar cheese.

### Appointment

On a proposal from the French Government, the Council appointed Mr André RAMOFF, Conseiller Référendaire à la Cour des Comptes Délégué à la Formation Professionnelle, a member of the Management Board of the European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training to replace Mr Gabriel DUCRAY, member, who has resigned, for the remainder of the latter's term of office, which runs until 14 January 1982.

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