

# COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

COM(83) 17 final

Brussels, 25 January 1983

Draft

## COUNCIL DECISION

concerning the conclusion of an Agreement between the European Economic Community and the Swiss Confederation on a concerted-action project in the field of cellular ageing

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(submitted to the Council by the Commission)

COM(83) 17 final



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COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE COUNCIL

SUBJECT : Draft Council Decision concerning the conclusion of an Agreement between the European Economic Community and the Swiss Confederation on a concerted-action project in the field of cellular ageing.

By its Decision 82/616/EEC of 17 August 1982, the Council adopted a sectoral research and development programme in the field of medical and public health research - concerted-action (1982-86) which provided for the continuation of the project on cellular ageing.

Article 7 of that Decision provides for the conclusion of agreements between the community and non-member states participating in European Cooperation in the Field of Scientific and Technical Research (COST), with a view to their total or partial involvement in the programme.

The same provision authorizes the Commission to open negotiations to this end.

In October, the Swiss Confederation made application to participate in the concerted-action project relating to cellular ageing.

Negotiations with the Swiss Confederation have led to the drafting of the Agreement which is annexed to the attached draft Council Decision.

This Agreement provides that :

- the General Committee and the Concerted-Action Committee responsible for this project shall be enlarged to include the Swiss Confederation for the purposes of all activities arising from the project;
- the financial contribution to the costs of coordination for the period from 1 January 1983 to 31 December 1986 shall be :
  - 600,000 ECU from the Community
  - 56,000 ECU from the Swiss Confederation.

The Commission hereby requests the Council to adopt the attached draft Decision.

DRAFT COUNCIL DECISION  
CONCERNING THE CONCLUSION OF AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY  
AND THE SWISS CONFEDERATION ON A CONCERTED-ACTION PROJECT IN THE FIELD  
OF CELLULAR AGEING

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community,

Having regard to Council Decision 82/616/EEC of 17 August 1982 adopting a sectoral research and development programme of the European Economic Community in the field of medical and public health research - concerted-action-(1982-86)<sup>1</sup>, and in particular Article 7(1) thereof,

Having regard to the draft Decision submitted by the Commission,

Whereas, pursuant to Article 7 (2) of Decision 82/616/EEC, the Commission has negotiated an Agreement with the Swiss Confederation with a view to associating it partly with this programme,

Whereas it is necessary to approve that Agreement,

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS :

Article 1

The Agreement concluded between the European Economic Community and the Swiss Confederation on a concerted-action project in the field of cellular ageing is hereby approved on behalf of the Community.

The text of the Agreement is annexed to this Decision.

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<sup>1</sup> OJ N° L 248, 24.8.1982, p. 12

Article 2

The President of the Council is hereby authorized to designate the persons empowered to sign the Agreement in order to bind the Community.

Done at Brussels,

For the Council,  
The President

DRAFT AGREEMENT  
BETWEEN THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY AND THE SWISS CONFEDERATION ON  
A CONCERTED-ACTION PROJECT IN THE FIELD OF CELLULAR AGEING.

The European Economic Community,  
hereinafter referred to as "the Community"

and

The Swiss Confederation,

Whereas an European concerted-action research project in the field of cellular ageing is likely to contribute effectively to the attainment of an optimum level of individual and public health;

Whereas, by its Decision of 17 August 1982, the Council of the European Communities adopted a sectoral research and development programme in the field of medical and public health research - concerted-action (1982-86), which included a concerted-action project in the field of cellular ageing;

Whereas the Member States of the Community and the Swiss Confederation, hereinafter referred to as "the States", intend, pursuant to the rules and procedures applicable to their national programmes, to carry out all or part of the research described in Annex A and are prepared to integrate such research within a framework of coordination which they consider will be of mutual benefit;

Whereas the estimated cost of the research described in annex A to be conducted by the States amounts to 25 million ECU;

have agreed as follows :

Article 1

The Community and the Swiss Confederation, hereinafter referred to as "the Contracting Parties" shall participate during the period from 1 January 1983 to 31 December 1986 in a concerted-action project in the field of cellular ageing.

./...

This project shall consist in the coordination of the Community's concerted-action programme with that of the Swiss Confederation.

The research covered by this Agreement is described in Annex A.

The States shall remain entirely responsible for the research conducted by their national institutes or bodies.

#### Article 2

The Commission of the European Communities, hereinafter referred to as "the Commission", shall be responsible for the coordination activities. It shall be assisted in the execution of this task by a Project Leader.

#### Article 3

In order to facilitate the implementation of the project, the General Committee and the relevant Concerted-Action Committee set up by the Council Decision of 17 August 1982 shall be enlarged to include the Swiss Confederation for the purpose of all activities arising from the concerted-action project covered by this Agreement.

The terms of reference of these enlarged committees are defined in Annex B. The secretarial services for these enlarged committees shall be provided by the Commission.

#### Article 4

The estimated financial contribution of the Contracting Parties to the coordination costs for the period referred to in Article 1 shall be

- 600,000 ECU from the Community,
- 56,000 ECU from the Swiss Confederation.

The ECU is that defined in the Financial Regulation in force applicable to the general budget of the European Communities and in the financial provisions adopted pursuant to that Regulation.

The rules governing the financing of the Agreement are set out in Annex C.

Article 5

The project shall be evaluated at the end of the third year.

As a result of this evaluation the Commission may, after consulting the enlarged General Committee, submit a proposal for revision of the project in accordance with the appropriate procedures.

Article 6

The States and the Commission shall periodically exchange all relevant information concerning the execution of the research covered by this Agreement. The States shall provide the Commission with all the information necessary for coordination purposes. They shall also endeavour to provide the Commission with information on similar research planned or carried out by bodies which are not under their authority. Any information will be treated as confidential if the State which supplies it so requests.

On completion of the programme, the Commission, in agreement with the enlarged General Committee, shall send to the States a summary report on the implementation and results of the programme, particularly so that the results obtained may be accessible as rapidly as possible to the enterprises, institutions and other parties concerned, especially in the social area.

Article 7

1. This Agreement shall enter into force on the day of its signature.
2. For a period of twelve months following its entry into force, this Agreement shall be open for accession by other European States which took part in the ministerial conference held in Brussels on 22 and 23 November 1971. The instruments of accession shall be deposited with the General Secretariat of the Council of the European Communities.

A State which accedes to this Agreement shall become a Contracting Party within the meaning of Article 1 on the date on which the instrument of accession is deposited, and the references to "the Swiss Confederation" in Articles 3 and 8 shall be understood as references to the acceding State also. Each acceding State shall contribute to the coordination costs under the conditions set out in Article 4 in reference to the Swiss Confederation.



3. The Secretary-General of the Council of the European Communities shall inform each of the Contracting Parties of the depositing of the instruments of accession referred to in paragraph 2.

#### Article 8

This Agreement shall apply, on the one hand, to the territories in which the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community is applied under the conditions laid down in that Treaty, and on the other hand to the territory of the Swiss Confederation.

#### Article 9

This Agreement, drawn up in a single original in the Danish, Dutch, English, French, German, Greek and Italian languages, each text being equally authentic, shall be deposited in the archives of the General Secretariat of the Council of the European Communities, which shall transmit a certified copy to each of the Contracting Parties.

## ANNEX A

### RESEARCH COVERED BY THE AGREEMENT

1. Cellular basis of liver- and brain-ageing : biophysical and biochemical studies at the organic, cellular and sub-cellular level of progressive age-related functional deterioration, including studies of senile dementia.
2. The immune system during ageing : study of age-related changes in the immune system in animals and, to a lesser extent, in man, with particular reference to immuno-deficiency, possible forms of treatment and the origin of arthritic diseases.
3. Ageing of the crystalline lens : physiological, morphological and biochemical studies of age-related functional deterioration, and origin of senile cataracts in human and animal tissue.

## ANNEX B

### TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE ENLARGED COMMITTEES

#### I. The enlarged General Concerted Action Committee

##### 1. The General Committee shall :

- contribute to the best possible implementation of the programme by giving its opinion on all its aspects;
- endeavour to integrate those parts of national research activities covered by this Agreement into a process of coordination between the Contracting Parties;
- within the programme as defined in Annex A to the Agreement, coordinate the activities, duration, and possibly, early termination of the projects forming the research areas of this programme, according to emerging needs or the results of periodical evaluations;
- indicate guidelines to the enlarged Concerted-Action Committee;
- advise the Commission on allocation of funds for coordination purposes, supporting centralized facilities, meeting urgent needs in critical areas, and undertaking exploratory activities in a view of the preparation of future programmes.

2. The reports and opinions of the enlarged General Committee shall be forwarded to the Contracting Parties. The Commission shall forward these opinions to CREST.

#### II. Enlarged Concerted Action Committee

##### 1. The Committee shall :

- assist the enlarged General Committee in its management tasks by ensuring the scientific and technical execution of all those projects assigned to it in accordance with its competence;
- evaluate the results and draw conclusions as regards their application;
- be responsible for the exchange of information referred to in the first paragraph of Article 6;
- keep abreast of national research being done in the field of the projects and, more especially of scientific and technical developments likely to affect their execution;
- suggest guidelines to the Project Leader.

2. The Committee's reports and opinions shall be forwarded to the enlarged General Committee and to the Commission.
3. The Project Leader shall attend the meetings of the Committee but shall not have the right to vote.

## ANNEX C

### FINANCING RULES

#### Article 1

These provisions lay down the financial rules referred to in Article 4 of the Community-COST Concertation Agreement on a concerted action project in the field of cellular ageing.

#### Article 2

At the beginning of each financial year, the Commission shall send to the Swiss Confederation a call for funds corresponding to its share of the annual coordination costs under the Agreement, calculated in proportion to the maximum amounts laid down in Article 4 of the Agreement.

This contribution shall be expressed both in ECU and the currency of the participating non member State concerned, the value of the ECU being defined in the Financial Regulation applicable to the general budget of the European Communities and determined on the date of the call for funds.

The total contributions shall cover the travel and subsistence costs of the delegates to the Committee, in addition to the coordination costs proper.

The Swiss Confederation shall pay its annual contribution to the coordination costs under the Agreement at the beginning of each year, and by 31 March at the latest. Any delay in the payment of the annual contribution shall give rise to the payment of interest by the participating non-member State concerned at a rate equal to the highest discount rate ruling in the States on the due date.

The rate shall be increased by 0.25 of a percentage point for each month of delay. The increased rate shall be applied to the entire period of delay. However, such interest shall be chargeable only if payment is effected more than three months after the issue of a call for funds by the Commission.

#### Article 3

The funds paid by the Swiss Confederation shall be credited to the concerted action project as budget receipts allocated to a heading in the statement of the revenue of the budget of the Commission.

#### Article 4

The provisional timetable for the coordination costs referred to in Article 4 of the Agreement is annexed.

#### Article 5

The Financial Regulation in force applicable to the general budget of the European Communities shall apply to the management of the appropriations.

#### Article 6

At the end of each financial year, a statement of appropriations for the concerted action project shall be prepared and transmitted to the Swiss Confederation for information.

" CELLULAR AGEING AND DECREASED FUNCTIONAL CAPACITY OF ORGANS "

Budget Item 7367 - Medical Research

PROJECT : I.z.1

Annex to Annex C

	(in ECU)					
	1983		1984 à 1985		Total	
	AC	AP	AC	AP	AC	AP
I. Initial estimate of overall requirements (figures in the commitments and payments schedule and in the table of equivalence in Annex II to the budget of the Commission)						
- Staff	--	--	--	--	--	--
- Administrative operating expenditure	50.000	50.000	50.000	50.000	200.000	200.000
- Contracts	100.000	100.000	100.000	100.000	400.000	400.000
<b>TOTAL (to be covered by appropriations entered under Item 7367)</b>	<b>150.000</b>	<b>150.000</b>	<b>150.000</b>	<b>150.000</b>	<b>600.000</b>	<b>600.000</b>
II. Revised estimate of expenditure taking into account additional requirements arising from the accession of the Swiss Confederation						
- Staff	--	--	--	--	--	--
- Administrative operating expenditure	50.000 + 5.000	50.000 + 5.000	50.000 + 5.000	50.000 + 5.000	200.000 + 20.000	200.000 + 20.000
- Contracts	100.000 + 9.000	100.000 + 9.000	100.000 + 9.000	100.000 + 9.000	400.000 + 36.000	400.000 + 36.000
<b>NEW TOTAL</b>	<b>150.000 + 14.000</b>	<b>150.000 + 14.000</b>	<b>150.000 + 14.000</b>	<b>150.000 + 14.000</b>	<b>600.000 + 56.000</b>	<b>600.000 + 56.000</b>
III. Difference between I and II to be covered by the contribution from the Swiss Confederation	14.000	14.000	14.000	14.000	56.000	56.000
AC = Appropriation for credits CP = Appropriation for commitments						