

**4TH FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME OF ACTIVITIES IN THE FIELD OF RESEARCH,
TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT AND DEMONSTRATION (1994-1998)**

The Council discussed in great depth the proposals for the 4th framework programme (FP) of activities in the field of research, technological development and demonstration (1994-1998). The discussion enabled it to arrive at general guidelines on the basis of which informal talks with the European Parliament could be continued with a view to adoption of a Council common position (under Article 130i of the Treaty on European Union) by the end of the year.

The Commission had submitted its formal proposals on 17 June 1993 and the European Parliament should be delivering its Opinion on them at its November part-session.

It should be pointed out that decisions are awaited on two proposals, one for the 4th EEC FP and the other for a framework programme of Community activities in the field of research and training for Euratom. With the entry into force of the Treaty on European Union, the EEC programme is to be adopted on the basis and under the procedures of the new Treaty, whereas the Euratom programme will be adopted under the Euratom Treaty.

Pending agreement on the overall amount to be allocated to the 4th RTD framework programme, the Commission's proposal of ECU 13 100 million was seen by a large majority of delegations as a realistic figure, while some delegations would prefer a lower figure or were still undecided, on account of the uncertain economic and budgetary conditions.

As regards the breakdown of the overall figure, the discussion enabled delegations to narrow the gap between their positions so that some general tendencies emerged. In the light of delegations' positions, the Presidency will be able to continue the informal dialogue with the European Parliament.

A consensus was also found on the number of specific programmes, to be 18, subject to further discussions on the number of specific programmes for the Joint Research Centre (1 nuclear and 1 non-nuclear).

The Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue with proceedings on the points still outstanding.