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BIOLOGY AND HEALTH PROTECTION PROGRAMME

The Council signified its agreement to a multi-annual Community research programme 1976-1980 in the field of biology health protection.

The aim of the programme is to supplement, extend and further scientific and technical know-how necessary for assessing and updating permissible human radiation levels and the contamination levels of the various environmental components and, secondly, to improve the practical organization of radio protection by Member States.

This objective will entail carrying out studies on the effects of radio-active contamination on man and the environment the effects of radiation on living matter, methods and dosimetry.

These projects will for the most part be carried out by means of association or cost-sharing contracts and in part by the Commission Biology Group at Ispra.

A total of 39 million units of account has been earmarked for this programme; the staff complement is set at 68.

The Council has not yet taken any decision as regards the programme on applications.

The Commission reserved the right to examine the possibility of including such action under general agricultural research.

ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

The Council signified its agreement to the multi-annual environmental research and development programme of the European Economic Community covering a five-year period as from 1 January 1976. This involves indirect action, which signifies that the research work will be carried out by means of contract.

The main aim of such research work will be to acquire the scientific and technical know-how necessary for implementation of the environmental programme of the European Communities. It will cover the following four areas:

- research designed to establish criteria (exposure/effect ratios) for pollutants and potentially toxic chemicals;
- research and development on environmental information management, with particular reference to chemicals likely to contaminate the environment (ECDIN project);
- research and development on the reduction and prevention of pollutants and nuisances, including the application of "clean" technologies;
- research and development related to the protection and improvement of the natural environment.

Certain studies of a general nature may also be undertaken.

An amount of 16 million units of account has been earmarked for this programme; the staff complement is set at 10.