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REVISION OF THE RESEARCH PROGRAMME IN THE FIELD OF BIOTECHNOLOGY

The Council adopted a common position, which will be forwarded to the European Parliament under the co-operation procedure, on the revision of the multiannual research action programme for the EEC in the field of biotechnology (1985-1989)

Revision will be directed at the following objectives:

- Extension to Spain and Portugal of the activities envisaged by the programme.
- Intensification of the current research effort in the sector of the programme that concerns the assessment of risks associated with modern biotechnology, and particularly with the deliberate release of genetically engineered organisms.
- Intensification of the current research effort in the area of information technology with emphasis upon processing data related to culture collections, genome sequences and protein modelling.
- Increase in the volume of current activities (visits, publications, electronic networks, meetings, summer workshops, etc....) aiming at a timely dissemination of information on the programme and of research results to all appropriate groups; involvement of Community industry in the research activities and in the utilisation of the data, materials and methods stemming from the research work under contract.
- Studies and feasibility pilot projects for the preparation of future Community R&D activities in biotechnology during the period 1990-1994.
- Increase in training activities in all parts of the current programme.

To finance this intensification and expansion of biotechnological research, the funds estimated as necessary will be increased from 55 MECU to 75 MECU, including expenditure on an additional staff of five.

Following the adoption of this common position, the Council held an informal exchange of views on other issues relevant to biological research possibilities and constraints. It reserved the right to return on another occasion both to the matter of the Community's strategy on biological research and to issues relating to bio-ethics in genetical research.