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FORMAL ADOPTION OF FIVE COMMUNITY RESEARCH PROGRAMMES

The Council formally adopted the following five programmes:

- DRIVE, Community programme in the field of information technology and telecommunications applied to road transport (Dedicated Road Infrastructure for Vehicle Safety in Europe);
- DELTA, Community action in the field of learning technologies - development of European learning through technological advance, exploratory action;
- BCR, research and development programme for the European Economic Community in the field of applied metrology and chemical analysis (1988-1992);
- SCIENCE, adopting a programme plan to stimulate the international co-operation and interchange needed by European research scientists (1988-1992);
- BIOTECHNOLOGY, revising the multiannual research programme for the European Economic Community in the field of biotechnology.

These were formally adopted pursuant to the agreement reached on 11 April 1988 on common positions on the five programmes and after the Council had examined the amendments proposed by the European Parliament for these programmes under the co-operation procedure. This enabled the Council to take account of the European Parliament's proposals that the co-operation procedure rather than the conciliation procedure should be applied in the case of the BCR and SCIENCE programmes in order to associate the European Parliament with the decision-making process concerning agreements with third countries.

The main features of the programmes are as follows:

The Commission will ensure implementation of the Stimulation Plan by means of research bursaries, research grants, grants for high-level courses, contracts encouraging the twinning of laboratories and operations contracts including equipment and accompanying measures where appropriate. It will be assisted by the Committee for the European Development of Science and Technology (CODEST) and by consultants.

The Commission is authorized to negotiate in accordance with Article 130n of the EEC Treaty, agreements with international organizations, with those countries participating in European Co-operation in the field of Scientific and Technological Research (COST) and with those European countries having concluded framework agreements on S/T co-operation with the Community with a view to associating them wholly or partly with the programme.

BIOTECHNOLOGY

This revision has 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.

SCIENCE

The funds estimated as necessary for the execution of the Stimulation Plan, which covers a 5-year period commencing on 1 January 1988, amount to 167 MECU, including expenditure on a staff of 18.

The Community financial support awarded in this field will be 100% of the cost of the actions.

The overall objective of the Stimulation Plan is to improve the efficacy of scientific and technological research in all the Member States and to contribute thereby to the reduction of scientific and technical development disparities between the different Member States of the European Community. It covers all fields of science and technology (the exact and natural sciences).

Its specific objectives are to:

- promote training through research and, by means of co-operation, the better use of high-level researchers in the Community;
- improve the mobility of research scientists of the Member States of the Community;
- develop and support intra-European scientific and technical co-operation on high-quality projects;
- promote the setting-up of intra-European co-operation and interchange networks with a view to reinforcing the overall scientific and technical competitiveness of the Community and thereby strengthening its economic and social cohesion.

- Increase in the volume of current activities (visits, publications, electronic networks, meetings, summer workshops, ...) 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 utilization 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.

In order to finance this intensification and extension of research in the field of biotechnology, the funds estimated as necessary will be increased from 55 MECU to 75 MECU, including expenditure on an additional staff of 5.

JOINT RESEARCH CENTRE

The Council evolved a series of positions on restructuring the activities of the Joint Research Centre for the period 1988 to 1991 in both the nuclear and the non-nuclear research fields, namely:

- a common position on the research programme in the non-nuclear field;
- common positions on the research programme in the nuclear field and a supplementary programme concerning the High Flux Reactor - HFR;
- a Resolution on new JRC activities.

The common position on non-nuclear research will be forwarded to the European Parliament as part of the co-operation procedure provided for by the Single Act. The common positions on nuclear research and the HFR will be forwarded to the European Parliament by way of information so that the Parliament has an overall view of the Council's intentions concerning future JRC activities.

The main features of the common position on non-nuclear research and of the common positions on nuclear research and the HFR are set out below together with the text of the Resolution on new JRC activities.