

COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

COM(89) 545 final - SYN 182

Brussels, 10 November 1989

4412.221
C 318 -
1989

Re-examined proposal for a
COUNCIL DECISION
adopting a specific research and technological development
programme in the field of biotechnology
(1990 - 1994)

B R I D G E

(Biotechnology Research for Innovation,
Development and Growth in Europe)

(presented by the Commission pursuant to Article 149.2(d)
of the EEC Treaty)

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

Com 545 f.

1. On 11 October 1989 the European Parliament in its second reading of the BRIDGE proposal (COM(88)806) adopted two amendments to the Common Position.
2. Pursuant to Art. 149 2d of the EEC Treaty, the Commission takes as a basis for its re-examined proposal the Common Position with one exception: the Commission modifies the text of the Common Position by taking into account the substance of parliamentary amendment n° 2 concerning deliberate release.

In countries where no regulations or guidelines governing deliberate release currently exist, the Commission believes that it is necessary in the implementation of the programme to place responsibility upon project proposers and to have an active involvement of national authorities in order to ensure safety. Therefore, the Commission modifies the third paragraph of the implementation section of Action I in Annex I of the Common Position by requiring that project proposers, planning to initiate release experiments, "obtain the written consent" of the competent authorities and not "ascertain that there is no objection". This modification falls in line with terminology agreed in pending deliberate release legislation proposed by the Commission (COM(88)160 final).

3. Comment of the Commission on the amendment of Parliament not accepted by the Commission

As regards the first part of amendment n° 1, whilst the Commission has undertaken to include in all future specific RDT programme proposals a provision concerning the relationship between the term "amount deemed necessary", the budgetary procedure and the interinstitutional agreement on budgetary discipline it considers untimely the introduction of any such provision for proposals already submitted as this could delay the adoption of the programmes concerned.

The Commission cannot accept the second part of amendment n° 1 because the amounts to be allocated to different research areas are to be decided by the budgetary authority and not by the legislature. Dependent upon the availability of budgetary means, the Commission intends to commit at least 3 MECU to the third paragraph of the implementation section of Action II.

4. The text of the re-examined proposal is to be found at Annex I. The text of the amendment of Parliament, which is not accepted by the Commission, is to be found at Annex II.

The Commission modifies the Common Position (Annex 1, Action I, Implementation, third paragraph) as follows:

.../...

Participants in a project conducted as a shared-cost action may be industrial enterprises, including small and medium enterprises, research institutions, universities or combinations of them, established in the Community or in those European third countries which have concluded framework agreements in scientific and technical co-operation with the Community. Pending the implementation of the provisions of a possible Council Directive on deliberate release into the environment of genetically modified organisms, proposals selected will have to conform, in the country where the release experiment is to take place, to relevant safety regulations or guidelines; in those countries where no such regulations or guidelines have been developed, the project proposers planning to initiate release experiments will obtain the written consent from the competent authorities concerned.

.../...

II

(Preparatory Acts)

COMMISSION

Re-examined proposal for a Council Decision adopting a specific research and technological development programme in the field of biotechnology (*)

(1990-1994)

(Biotechnology Research for Innovation, Development and Growth in Europe *(BRIDGE)*)

COM(89) 545 final — SYN 182

(Submitted by the Commission pursuant to Article 149 (2) (d) of the EEC Treaty 13 November 1989)

(89/C 318/04)

The Commission modifies the Common Position (Annex 1, Action 1, Implementation, third paragraph) as follows:

'Participants in a project conducted as a shared-cost action may be industrial enterprises, including small and medium enterprises, research institutions, universities or combinations of them, established in the Community or in those European third countries which have concluded framework agreements in scientific and technical cooperation with the Community. Pending the implementation of the provisions of a possible Council Directive on deliberate release into the environment of genetically modified organisms, proposals selected will have to conform, in the country where the release experiment is to take place, to relevant safety regulations or guidelines; in those countries where no such regulations or guidelines have been developed, the project proposers planning to initiate release experiments will obtain the written consent from the competent authorities concerned.'

Amendment No 1 of the European Parliament

Article 2, third and fourth paragraphs

'Each year, in the context of the annual budgetary procedure, the Commission shall propose to the budgetary authority that these appropriations be entered for the programme on the basis of the real needs of the reference financial year and the financial estimates as featured in the Inter-Institutional Agreement.'

A minimum of 5 % of the total BRIDGE budget shall be allocated to parallel research projects in the form of social-sciences research into the possible effects of the generic technologies and techniques to be supported under the BRIDGE programme. The social-sciences research shall be a separate subprogramme within the BRIDGE programme with its own budget of not less than ECU 5 million.'

(*) OJ No C 70, 20. 3. 1989, p. 1.

1
2
3