
EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

1982-1983

10 May 1982

DOCUMENT 1-202/82

REPORT

drawn up on behalf of the Committee on Development and
Cooperation

on the proposal from the Commission of the European
Communities to the Council (Doc. 1-271/81 - COM (81)
212 final) for a Council decision adopting a programme
of research and development in the field of science and
technology for development 1982-1985

Rapporteur: Mrs R.-C. RABBETHGE

By letter of 27 May 1981 the Council requested the European Parliament to deliver an opinion on the proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council (Doc. 1-271/81) for a Council decision adopting a programme of research and development in the field of science and technology for development 1982-1985.

On 5 June 1981 the President of the European Parliament referred this proposal to the Committee on Development and Cooperation as the committee responsible and to the Committee on Energy and Research, the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection and the Committee on Budgets for their opinions.

On 23 June 1981 the Committee on Development and Cooperation appointed Mrs Rabbethge rapporteur.

The committee discussed the Commission proposal and the draft report at its meetings of 21 October 1981, 18 March 1982, 2 April 1982 and 30 April 1982.

At its meeting of 30 April 1982 the committee decided by 15 votes with 9 abstentions to recommend that Parliament approve the Commission proposal subject to the attached amendments. The Commission informed the committee that it was prepared to accept amendments N°s 1 to 8.

The committee nevertheless decided to reserve the possibility of recommending that Parliament apply Rule 36(2) of the Rules of Procedure.

The committee then adopted the motion for a resolution by 15 votes with 9 abstentions.

The following took part in the vote: Mr Bersani, vice-chairman, Mrs Rabbethge, rapporteur, Mr Cohen, Mr de Courcy Ling, Mrs Dury, Mr Enright, Mr Fellermaier, Mrs Focke, Mr Fuchs, Mr Howell, Mr C. Jackson, Mr Lemmer (deputizing for Mr Lecanuet), Mr Lezzi, Mr Lüster, Mr Michel, Mr Narducci, Mr Pannella, Mr Papantoniou (deputizing for Mr Kühn), Mr Pearce, Mrs Pruvot (deputizing for Mr Sablé), Mr Rinsche (deputizing for Mr Vergeer), Mr Sherlock, Mr Wawrzik, Mr Wedekind.

The opinions of the Committee on Energy and Research, the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection and the Committee on Budgets are attached.

C O N T E N T S

	Page
AMENDMENTS.....	5
A. MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION.....	9
B. EXPLANATORY STATEMENT.....	19
<u>INTRODUCTION: Need for science and applied research to be included in the general guidelines on development policy.....</u>	19
A. <u>Greater international cooperation in the field of science and technology - the Vienna action programme.....</u>	21
B. <u>Support for and promotion of areas of research likely to improve the overall economic and social position of the developing countries.....</u>	24
I. Development and adaptation of technologies to the specific requirements of the developing countries....	26
II. Inclusion of science and technology with North-South Dialogue - Formulation of a code for the transfer of technology.....	29
C. <u>Assessment of the Commission proposals.....</u>	31
I. Tropical agriculture.....	33
1. <u>Present situation.....</u>	33
2. <u>Promotion of agricultural research in the Community countries.....</u>	35
3. <u>Main areas of research.....</u>	40
4. <u>Training.....</u>	44
5. <u>Exchange of research findings, avoidance of duplication.....</u>	46
II. Medical care, public health and nutrition in tropical areas.....	48
1. <u>Aspects of the health situation in the countries of the third world.....</u>	48
2. <u>Promotion of tropical medical research in the Community countries.....</u>	49
3. <u>Training.....</u>	51
4. <u>Main areas of research.....</u>	52
5. <u>Exchange of research findings, avoidance of duplication.....</u>	55
III. Financing and implementation of the programme.....	55
Opinion of the Committee on Energy and Research	58
Opinion of the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection	76
Opinion of the Committee on Budgets in the form of a letter.....	83

The Committee on Development and Cooperation hereby submits to the European Parliament the following amendments and motion for a resolution together with explanatory statement:

TEXT PROPOSED BY PARLIAMENT

COMMISSION TEXT

Proposal for a decision adopting a programme of research and development in the field of science and technology for development 1982-1985 (Doc. 1-271/81)

AMENDMENT N° 1

Seventh recital

Amend this recital to read:

Whereas it is necessary to establish greater cooperation among scientists in the various Member States and the developing countries with a view to facilitating the complementarity of research and methodologies and ensuring easier access to the different networks of scientific relationships established by the Member States with their Third World partners;

AMENDMENT N° 2

Eleventh recital

Amend this recital to read:

Whereas, in view of the object and specificity of this programme, which is carried out in the interest of the developing countries and should be implemented in close cooperation with them, it is consequently advisable to lay down special rules for the dissemination of the results of the programme;

Seventh recital

Whereas it is necessary to establish greater cooperation among scientists in the various Member States with a view to facilitating the complementarity of research and methodologies and ensuring easier access to the different networks of scientific relationships established by the Member States with their Third World partners;

Eleventh recital

Whereas, in view of the object and specificity of this programme, which is carried out in the interest of the developing countries, it is consequently advisable to lay down special rules for the dissemination of the results of the programme;

AMENDMENT N° 3

Article 1

Amend Article 1 to read:

An outline programme of research and development to support and reinforce the scientific activities of the Member States in the field of science and technology for development to help the developing countries, as set out in the annex hereto, is hereby adopted for an initial period of four years commencing 1 January 1982 with clearly defined priorities and should be followed up, after close examination, by a further programme together with additional finance.

AMENDMENT N° 4

Article 1(a)

Add the following:

'Under the overall programme there shall be provision for competent bodies based in the European Community to submit their own proposals for research and development projects, supported by recommendations or requests from developing countries. The general criteria for selecting such projects are given in Annex B. The Commission, in deciding whether such projects are eligible, will also follow the consultation procedures provided for under Article 3 of this Regulation.'

Article 1

A programme of research and development to support and reinforce the scientific activities of the Member States in the field of science and technology for development, as set out in the annex hereto, is hereby adopted for a period of four years commencing 1 January 1982.

AMENDMENT N° 5

Article 2

Amend the first paragraph to read:

The financial requirement for the first phase of the programme is estimated at 40 million ECU and the staff requirement at 9 officials. The ECU is defined in accordance with the financial regulations in force.

AMENDMENT N° 6

Article 3

Add the following to Article 3:

Representatives of the developing countries, who are experts in the relevant research areas, shall have the right to speak in both Advisory Committees on Programme Management and shall be involved in the practical implementation of the various aspects of the programme. In order to ensure optimum coordination between the

Article 2

The financial requirement for the duration of the programme is estimated at 40 million ECU and the staff requirement at 9 officials. The ECU is defined in accordance with the financial regulations in force.

Article 3

The Commission shall be responsible for the execution of the programme. Two Advisory Committees on Programme Management shall be set up, one for the sub-programme 'Tropical Agriculture' and the other for the sub-programme 'Medicine, Health and Nutrition in the Tropics'. The tasks and composition of the committees are defined in the Council resolution of 18 July 1977 on Advisory Committees on Programme Management. Representatives of the Standing Committee on Agricultural Research (SCAR), of the Committee on Medical Research and Public Health (CRM) and of the Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTA) will participate in the work of these ACPMs.

Commission, on the one hand, and the programme management committees on the other, representatives of relevant international organizations may attend these meetings.

AMENDMENT N° 7

Article 4

Amend Article 4 to read:

During the third year of the programme the Commission, with the assistance of competent independent scientists, including a sufficient number from the developing countries, shall evaluate it and, if necessary, propose appropriate modifications.

AMENDMENT N° 8

Article 5

Amend paragraph 3 to read:

The Commission must communicate this information primarily to the developing countries, not only those with which the Community has concluded association or cooperation agreements and to the non-associated developing countries which benefit from financial and technical aid from the Community, but to all developing countries which urgently require it and are in a position to use it; it may also make communication of this information subject to conditions which it shall lay down.

Article 4

During the third year of the programme, the Commission shall evaluate it and, if necessary, propose appropriate modifications.

Article 5

3. The Commission shall communicate the information and inventions which it has the right to transmit to the Member States as well as to persons and undertakings which pursue, on the territory of a Member State or in a developing country, a research or a production activity justifying access to such information. The Commission may also communicate this information to the developing countries, particularly those with which the Community has concluded association or cooperation agreements, and to the non-associated developing countries which benefit from financial and technical aid from the Community; it may also make communication of this information subject to conditions which it shall lay down.

A
MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

embodying the opinion of the European Parliament on the proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council for a decision adopting a programme of research and development in the field of science and technology for development 1982 - 1985

The European Parliament

- A. having regard to the proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council (COM (81) 212 final) and the relevant working document (SEC(82) 437),
- B. having been consulted by the Council (Doc. 1-271/81),
- C. having regard to the report by the Committee on Development and Cooperation and the opinions of the Committee on Energy and Research, the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection and the Committee on Budgets, (Doc. 1-202/82)
- D. having regard to the votes on the Commission proposals,
- E. having regard to the resolution on the European Community's contribution to the campaign against world hunger¹ adopted by the European Parliament on 18 September 1980,
- F. having regard to the 'Vienna Action Programme'²,
- G. having regard to the Chasle report on cultural cooperation between the ACP States and the Community³,
- H. having regard to the European Parliament's resolution of 8 May 1981 on the creation of a European Community Foundation for International Technological and Scientific Cooperation⁴,
- 1. Welcomes the fact that the Commission intends to increase cooperation with the developing countries in the area of research and development, especially as the Commission has not put forward any proposals in this connection since 1976;

¹ OJ No. C 265 of 13.10.1980, Doc. 1-341/80

² UN Resolution No. 34/218 of 23.1.1980

³ Doc. ACP/EEC/27/81; resolution in OJ No. C 15 of 20.1.1982

⁴ OJ No. C 144 of 15.6.1981

2. Believes that the programme should make provision for competent bodies based in the European Community to submit their own proposals for research and development projects, supported by recommendations or requests from developing countries;
3. Agrees that priority should be given initially to tropical agriculture and medicine, health and nutrition within the framework of the proposed research programme, as both sectors are of fundamental importance for improving living conditions and the economy in the developing countries;
4. Considers it necessary, in view of the precarious food situation in most developing countries, to give the highest priority to a comprehensive programme of intensive agricultural research, as this is an essential prerequisite for increased agricultural productivity and a greater degree of rural development;
5. Is aware that there is an urgent need for more basic and strategic research to help the developing countries in the field of agriculture by supplementing existing FAO assistance programmes and the work of international agricultural research institutes affiliated to the CGIAR, since the latter are occupied almost exclusively with applied research;

stresses, furthermore, that certain types of basic research cannot be carried out in the developing countries at present because of inadequate infrastructures;
6. Advocates, therefore, the expansion of basic agricultural research in the Community subject to the following conditions:
 - European agricultural research, as defined in the programme, must be geared systematically to the real requirements of the developing countries
 - the criterion for selecting research institutes to undertake problem-oriented basic research should be the standard of excellence and not underuse of available capacity;
7. Regrets in this connection the concentration of the programme exclusively on basic research in the Community and consequently urges the Commission to include field research as an equally valid part of its programme of work subject to the following conditions:

- availability of financial resources to carry out the work on-the-spot;
- direct links in the form of cooperative research contracts or complementary cooperation programmes;
- the complementarity of the work of research centres in the European Community and of related facilities in the developing countries must be intensified by means of research partnerships;
- the distribution of work must be based on the tasks to be performed and the resources of the institutes in terms of staff and technical facilities, with international research institutes being included in the allocation of work;
- the infrastructure which already exists in a number of developing countries should be used and expanded by financial and further training measures;
- promotion of the exchange of scientists from the Community and the developing countries to work together on long-term research projects;
- specific research activities should be carried out on behalf of institutes in the developing countries in centres located in the European Community using the facilities available there, and certain field-related research work should be carried out by institutes in the developing countries on behalf of research centres in the European Community;
- research should be project-based and be closely coordinated with the implementation of projects;
- help must be given to expand or create regional research facilities to cover areas which cannot be tackled by the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR);
- selective promotion of interdisciplinary research and an increase in the publicity work carried out by research institutes in the developing countries;
- development of test facilities for technologies intended for the developing countries;

8. Considers that many of the proposed research projects in the area of tropical agriculture cannot be carried out with the proposed funds of 30 million ECU or within a period of four years; considers that the proposed topics are extremely important but that, because of the large number of priorities, overriding objectives have not been set, a scale of priorities established or specific research topics evaluated;
9. Considers it necessary, therefore, to review the content of the research programme and, as indicated in detail in the explanatory statement, recommends concentration on a few key areas which are not already covered by other multilateral institutions;
10. Stresses that the research work must be concentrated on the basic needs of the developing countries and that the establishment of a multidisciplinary research programme on problems relating to agricultural production and the development of agricultural technologies and economies, including forestry and fisheries, is of crucial importance;
11. Recommends in this connection an increase in system-oriented and integral research and more intensive examination of interactions, reactions and causal links with reference to cultural identity and the economic, political and socio-cultural environment;
12. Notes that there are substantial gaps in basic research in the area of tropical medicine and consequently supports the expansion of some areas of basic medical research (biochemistry, genetics, immunology and pharmacy) in the Community, as the WHO's current programmes cover only certain aspects and as most developing countries are also not in a position at present to carry out this high technology research themselves for financial reasons and because of the lack of infrastructures; research relating to traditional local medicine should also be included on a scientific basis;
13. Urges that the full support of the Community be given to relevant research in the developing countries as well as to research activities in the Community and that the developing countries be given the

necessary financial and technical assistance to set up their own basic research infrastructures;

14. Draws the Commission's attention to the fact that the costly health service of the industrialized countries cannot simply be transferred to the third world and would therefore like the Commission's proposal to say something about how health services can be most effectively organized and the most common diseases in the developing countries combated at the least cost;
15. Calls also for active support for specialized research centres engaged in the development of medicines for use in tropical countries and vaccines for the mass treatment or prevention of major epidemics;
16. Considers it necessary, given that the resources available are limited to 10 million ECU, to redefine the priorities for research into diseases as proposed in the explanatory statement and, in particular, to delete some research projects which are not geared to the specific needs of the tropics;
17. Hopes, on the other hand, that the subject area 'capacity and fitness of people at work' (ergonomics), particularly in the rural areas of the tropics, will be included in the research programme;
18. Points out that, in addition to basic research, priority must be given to evaluating and applying existing research findings with particular emphasis on:
 - collating, publishing and applying existing programmes and adapting known methods and treatments for use at village level, particularly in the case of undernourishment and malnutrition of mother and child, diarrhoea and tetanus;
 - developing new methods for treating known but as yet unsolved problems such as pneumonia and eye and skin diseases;
 - establishing methods for gathering data on the health situation and developing basic health services which would be suitable for most developing countries;

19. Considers the link between medicine and social science mentioned in the chapter on environmental health to be very important, as the research projects should be established on a multidisciplinary basis where possible from the very outset;
20. Regrets that the Commission document mentions only an effective European research potential and demands therefore that the training of scientists from the developing countries be included in the programme and that account be taken of this in the budget, as it represents a very important long-term investment;
21. Emphasizes that the research programme in the interest of the developing countries can be carried out successfully only if the same weight is attached to training and further training in the developing countries as to the content of the research itself, with such training being geared to the target groups in the developing countries given the need to establish local research teams to carry out development-oriented research;
22. Attaches great importance to further training for teachers in research and advisory services, as there is a great shortage of experts in research administration and management;
23. Considers that it is absolutely essential, particularly in the area of medical training, for the Community to assist medical schools in the developing countries by means of bilateral projects and the provision of experts within the framework of the research programmes, since the teaching of medicine can be geared more closely to real needs if it is provided in the developing countries themselves;
24. Calls for appropriate preparation of doctors from the developing countries trained in the Community for the professional duties they will have to perform in their home countries; given the brain drain problem, consideration should also be given to the possibility of providing reintegration assistance for doctors when they return to their home countries, as is already the case under some of the bilateral agreements concluded by EEC Member States;

25. Regards the promotion of partnerships between institutes and twinning arrangements in the case of similar structures and areas of research as important, and calls for appropriate funding for travel expenses, particularly those of guest researchers from the developing countries visiting the Community;
26. Is aware that the transfer of available research results to developing countries is still inadequately organized and coordinated, although good information systems exist to which the developing countries have access; however, as the use of such systems is a question of cost and level of training, appropriate assistance from the Community is urgently needed;
27. Considers the existing information systems to be adequate, but urges the Commission to study ways of making greater use of the European information network 'Euronet-Diane' in the development policy area;
28. Profoundly regrets in this connection that the Technical Centre for Cooperation in Agriculture and Rural Areas provided for in Lome II has still not begun its work and urges that it do so as soon as possible; considers that one of the tasks of the centre should be to disseminate knowledge, to consider how relevant this knowledge is in practice and to apply it;
29. Stresses the importance of the resolution contained in the Lagos Plan, as it is the first time a declaration by the developing countries of one continent has attached special importance to the promotion of science and technology, and asks the Commission to take account of the Lagos Plan when implementing its programme;
30. Considers that a Community programme need not necessarily lead to duplication of work, provided the projects are designed to fill gaps and are coordinated with those of other organizations;

calls, therefore, on the Commission to set up consultation machinery and to initiate concerted action to improve coordination; considers furthermore that it would be useful to take advantage of the activities and connections of the research networks and centres created by the FAO, WHO and CGIAR to achieve more concentrated and coordinated action;

31. Regards the proposed programme as merely a first step, since most basic research projects require a long-term approach extending well beyond the proposed four-year period, and considers that the programme can fulfil its purpose only if there is a follow-up programme which also covers the important field of energy;
32. Considers that something can be achieved in the first phase with the 40 million ECU available, provided it is concentrated on selected research activities and well-thought-out projects which will have a multiplier effect; proposes, however, that additional finance be made available for other programmes in these areas because of the long-term nature of the research;
33. Regards the proposed allocation of budgetary resources as highly provisional, since detailed priorities in the individual research areas must first be established; points out, furthermore, that this research programme involves non-compulsory expenditure;
34. Stresses that the implementing provisions will determine the real value of the programme for the developing countries; urges, therefore, that detailed rules be laid down for decision-taking, management and supervision, so that the programme objectives can not only be achieved with the desired level of efficiency and flexibility but are also consonant with the real requirements of the developing countries;
35. Considers it important to ensure that, when agreements are concluded and the implementation of the programme is being monitored, officials from DG VIII should be involved as well as those from DG XII;

36. Considers that it is crucial, at all stages of implementation, to avoid giving the impression that European research institutes which previously worked mainly overseas might be interested primarily in pursuing their own research activities with the support of the Community;
37. Stresses that, from the beginning, great care must be taken to ensure that European research institutes do not increase or embark on research which is primarily in their own interest has little or no relevance to the priorities mentioned here or is determined by decisions concerning the needs of the developing countries which take no account of the latter's views;
38. Urges, therefore, that the developing countries should not only have the right to make known their views in the two Advisory Committees on Programme Management (Article 3 of the proposal for a Council decision) planned for the two sub-programmes but should also be represented in the work involved in all the aspects of the programme;
39. Considers, furthermore, that, in order to achieve optimum coordination between the Commission and the programme management committees, it would be useful for representatives of the FAO and the WHO to take part in these meetings;
40. Considers that the programme as a whole will be meaningful only if research institutes in the developing countries are involved in the work from the outset and if the Community at the same time supports research centres in the developing countries in their efforts to expand their own local research and development capacity;
41. Urges that the optional provision contained in Article 5 be made binding, as the Commission must pass on the results of the research to the developing countries, since the programme was conceived primarily to benefit them;
42. Demands that the information be given not only to countries with which the Community has specific association or cooperation agreements but to all developing countries which urgently require such information and are in a position to use it;

43. Calls on the Commission to consider to what extent existing Community instruments and facilities available under the Community development policy could be used for this research programme in the developing countries, particularly with reference to the transfer of scientific knowledge;
44. Stresses, in conclusion, that it can and will endorse the research programme only if the Commission takes account of all the amendments to the proposal for a Council decision and of the demands set out in the resolution.
45. Instructs its President to forward the Commission proposal as amended by the European Parliament, together with the resolution as Parliament's opinion, to the Commission and the Council.