



# IRDAC

Industrial R&D Advisory Committee of the European Commission

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

NEWS

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## INTERVIEW WITH HELMUT LIST, THE NEW CHAIRMAN OF IRDAC

*"A more integrated approach to innovation".*

*At the IRDAC Plenum of 13 February 1997, Commissioner Cresson appointed Helmut List as new Chairman of IRDAC. In this capacity Mr List replaces Mr Farge who completed his second term.*

*Born in Graz (Austria) and an engineer by training, the new President began his professional career in his father's company, AVL-List GmbH, of which he is now Chairman and CEO. The company specialises in research and development of IC engines, engine instrumentation and analysers for medical use. From 1993-96 he held the position of Vice-President of IRDAC.*

**A**s an industrialist in a new Member State of the European Union, what are your opinions of Europe's RDT policy?

I consider the European Research and Development policy (RDT) to be very important because it stimulates cooperation between different nations and businesses with a view to building for the future, solving societal problems and strengthening industrial competitiveness. Thanks to the Community RTD programmes European businesses have not only increased collaboration between themselves but also with other key players such as universities and research centres. What we need is a more integrated approach to innovation; an approach which combines technological development, oriented fundamental research and the needs of the end user in an interdisciplinary way. The RTD programmes of the EU are also a way to harmonise the various norms and standards in Europe. Currently, Europe's industry is losing still too much money as a result of lack of standards.

**And your opinion of the Commission proposal for the Framework Programme V?**

I am very happy to see the Commission taking on board many of IRDAC's requests and recommendations, like more selectivity and concentration – via less programmes – and a challenge-led approach by means of the "key actions". A shortcoming that I can see is that it lacks a deeper framing of the competitiveness issue in European industry. For me, competitiveness in our industry is a key issue that needs to be addressed more. Personally, I would like this last point to be given greater emphasis within the Framework Programme V.

**But what is the role and what are the main activities of IRDAC, with regard to the preparation of the six specific RTD programmes under the Framework Programme V?**

IRDAC has been requested by Mrs Cresson to advise on this issue – to make sure that the new specific research programmes have the right objectives which can be translated into successful innovations in European industry and society. So, IRDAC aims to continue (in its advisory role) with a global understanding of all the fields, disciplines, technologies and research bases. Our work is not to prescribe guidelines for the Commission in industrial and RTD affairs, but to make recommendations. At the end of the day the Commission has to take its own responsibility.

**How effective are IRDAC's suggestions?**

The success of IRDAC depends of course very much on the way the Commission follows its advice. On the basis of this criteria we can say that we have been very successful in the fields of Industrial and Materials Technologies, SME, Information and Communication Technologies and Life Sciences. Less successful are our opinions on Environment, Energy and Human Capital and Mobility; within these fields the Commission only partially followed our advice and hence these programmes are still too academic in nature.

**What is IRDAC's Workplan for the year 1997?**

First of all the development of the Framework Programme V – we will give recommendations on the specific RTD programmes and on the revision of the Community model contract, paying special attention to the issue of intellectual property rights. Other main points of interest will be the continuation of our work on innovation – now with the Innovation Action Plan –, on venture capital and on satellite technologies. We attach a great deal of importance to the aspects of education and training and we will react on the Commission's Green Book "Education, training, research: the obstacles to transnational mobility". Furthermore we will present IRDAC's views on the opportunity of a European industrial exchange and training scheme. Finally, we are planning a study on the efficiency of the European industry, and in June there will be a two-day seminar to discuss the added value to industry of the Community RTD programmes. ■





## IRDAC PLENUM 13 FEBRUARY 1997

*Mrs Cresson complimented the "quality of the work done by IRDAC"*

*Commissioner Cresson was present at IRDAC's winter plenum and appointed Prof. List as new Chairman of IRDAC. Further to the discussions with the Commissioner on aspects of RTD policy and with Viscount Davignon on the works of the assessment panel of Framework Programme IV, the Plenum discussed the draft conclusions of the round table on Venture Capital, IRDAC's position regarding the S&T agreement with the USA and approved the report on Life Sciences.*

**A**mong the many points raised by Mrs Cresson, were the objectives of the Fifth Framework Programme for research and technological development – as formulated in a working paper adopted by the Commission the previous day. The Commissioner also described the situation in the field of innovation and education and made specific requests for future IRDAC recommendations.

### **On the Fifth Framework Programme**

"Firstly, a clear focus on a series of major social and economic objectives and the expectations and needs of citizens and industry" said the Commissioner. "European research, is, and must remain based on the principle of excellence, but it also has fundamental links with the major objectives of Union policies. Secondly, a clear concentration of efforts – justified on cost-effectiveness grounds and objectives pursued. And thirdly, the last feature of the Framework Programme is the much greater emphasis on the exploitation of results and innovation"

Mrs Cresson further emphasised the critical role that Small and Medium-sized Enterprises can play towards

creating wealth, employment and innovation: "SMEs, have a major role by creating propitious conditions for innovation in Europe and by organising more efficiently the exploitation of the results of the Union's research projects: special measures are envisaged to assist them."

### **The Framework Programme and IRDAC**

"I would like to point out the great convergence between the Framework Programme (as described in the paper) and IRDAC's recommendations in its report, on this subject and in other contexts. The following are just some examples:

- the desire to concentrate efforts on a limited number of topics;
- the principle of exploiting research results, at project level, within the individual programmes;
- extension of the human potential and mobility activities to industry;
- the principle of cooperation with the major industrialised countries on a strict basis of mutual benefit;
- the importance assigned to activities in the field of satellite technologies, especially as regards navigation and positioning systems;
- the idea of an activity relating to the topic of "The city of tomorrow".

This of course is no coincidence, and shows that the Commission listens to industry, a sector for which you are the legitimate and acknowledged spokesmen".

### **On Innovation and Formation**

In the "Action plan for Innovation", the Commission proposes three measures:

- fostering an innovation culture, e.g. through education and mobility schemes;
- establishing a framework conducive to innovation,



in particular where financing, intellectual property rights and administrative provisions are concerned;

- tailoring European research potential and activities more towards industrial and commercial innovation.

The measures advocated should be implemented at regional, national and European level while those due to be implemented under the Fifth Framework Programme aim to:

- establish a new scheme for the transfer of technologies based on Union research projects;
- establish a counselling and assistance network for intellectual property rights and access to private funding, in particular venture capital funds, especially for SMEs;
- strengthen the interfaces with bodies providing funding for innovation and assistance with the formation of innovative firms.

## Request for IRDAC recommendations

Mrs Cresson complimented the "quality of the work done by IRDAC and the relevance of its recommendations" and urged this committee to offer its opinion on a host of topics:

- **Fifth Framework Programme** – opinions on the content and the priorities of the six proposed programmes, and on the definition of a new standard research contract especially regarding the intellectual property aspects
- **Action plan for innovation** – "Industry is directly concerned by innovation, and it is vital that we should have its opinion about the importance and value of the measures advocated so that they can be improved if necessary"
- **Satellites** – "persevere with your excellent work, on satellite technologies
- **Green Paper on obstacles to mobility.** ■



## On the departure of Mr Farge as IRDAC Chairman

"I should like to thank Chairman Yves Farge, whose professional commitments have obliged him to relinquish this post which he has, I believe, filled to the satisfaction of all concerned. I would like to take this opportunity to express my appreciation of his competence and human qualities."



## "Time for a new leap forward" Presentation by Viscount Davignon of the works of the assessment panel of FPIV

The foreword of the 5-Year assessment panel of the European Community RTD Framework programmes, chaired by Viscount Davignon is very clear:

"It is time for a major change, for a leap forward as qualitative and fundamental as the creation of the Framework Programme itself."

This panel, composed of 12 independent experts, has concluded that European research is underachieving because of a lack of focus and a legal structure that "inhibits the formulation of a real strategy and makes effective implementation difficult", even if the quality of the research carried out and the network of talent brought together by the Framework Programmes is emphasized. The Panel proposes recommendations for changes to the legal framework and for a more effective implementation process.

The new legal framework should entail Council decisions by qualified majority – the present decision-making process "tends to produce a programme built on national and sectoral interests" – and it should allow for flexible procedures that are currently

lacking as each Specific Programme is governed by a legal decision fixing its topics and budgets for the full five-year term.

The Panel recommends a more active promotion of technology diffusion and commercial exploitation and a reinforced support to SMEs as new approaches to implementing the Framework Programme. "The Fifth Framework Programme needs to be based on the twin pillars of scientific excellence and social and economic relevance, and it can only be made relevant if it is the result of a strategic approach". The IRDAC Members thoroughly supported the conclusions and recommendations of the Davignon Panel:

- Framework Programme V should be a 'quality jump'
- Change procedures (get rid of unanimity)
- EU programmes should be built on scientific excellence and relevance (based on socio-economic criteria)
- Programmes should have more flexibility to deal with elements of change and be able to pick up new signals. ■



*Mr Viana Baptista, Vice Chairman of IRDAC, was one of the members of this panel*





Mr Kamminga, (UEAPME)  
Chairman of the  
Round Table

## IRDAC OPINION ON

# SMALL AND MEDIUM-SIZED ENTERPRISES (SMEs)

*Business figures show that 99.8% of all companies in Europe are Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) with less than 500 employees. Given their importance, SMEs deserve to be recognised as a target group for different Community policies, including that on RTD, according to IRDAC.*

In an opinion on SMEs and RTD programmes in the EU, addressed to the European Research Commissioner Edith Cresson, IRDAC acknowledges the fact that smaller companies have become more involved in Framework Programmes, but claims that there is still room for improvement. SMEs should be given special attention, but there is no need for a specific programme for them, as this would isolate SMEs from other RTD actors. IRDAC believes that the most effective way to ensure larger SME involvement in the programmes is to base Community RTD activities on their real needs with a grass roots approach.

### Encourage SME participation

IRDAC's opinion – based on the work of a round table chaired by Mr Kamminga, President of UEAPME (European Union of Craft, and Small and Medium-sized Enterprises) – says some of the key instruments available to encourage SME participation are the Technology Stimulation Measures. These include two actions: Exploratory Awards offering financial support for proposal preparation and advice, and Cooperative research (CRAFT) whereby SMEs can out-source RTD work to third parties like universities or research bodies. These measures have proved capable of addressing the real problems of SMEs, which include difficulties in finding partners, and preparing proposals. The IRDAC round table suggested the scheme of cooperative research should be further developed under the EU's Fifth Framework Programme for RTD. This would involve certain parts being managed centrally by

the SME Coordination Unit to ensure a common approach throughout the different programmes. "The scheme should allow the technology-follower SMEs the possibility of presenting any ideas or proposals to a central gate whatever their scientific or industrial field," the opinion says in its conclusions. Many of these proposals are expected to involve the adaptation of existing technologies rather than the development of new ones.

### Slash red tape

The IRDAC opinion points out that bureaucracy can act as a serious turn-off for SMEs. It suggests the Technology Stimulation Measures should in future be implemented in a more user-friendly manner. "This means clear and unambiguous application material, a transparent evaluation process and quick feedback on submitted proposals," the opinion says. But all these measures could amount to nothing if there is little publicity about them. The opinion calls for

effective decentralised networks jointly managed by the European Commission and the Member States to take care of publicising the possibilities available under the RTD programmes, as well as the results of those already in place. At the moment, several networks already exist, including the CRAFT National Focal Points, the Innovation Relay Centres, and the Euro-Info Centres. But IRDAC calls for greater coordination among the networks, and the creation within the European Commission of a 'first stop shop' or "guichet unique" as a central point of access. ■



Dr G Martens, President  
of Research &  
Technological Working  
Group, UNICE

## List of participants

### Participants at the IRDAC Round Table of the EU

J Kamminga (Chairman)  
J Arias Ruiz de Temiño  
J Bonfim  
S de la Concha  
J Delaplanque  
W Gantner  
P Heringa  
G Martens  
M Martinez  
V Papantoniou  
P Pecos  
C Steenstrup  
J Te Bos  
A Toet  
M Tsakali

### EC Secretariat

R J Smits  
G. Clarotti

### Members of the IRDAC Group on Li

A S Ganguly (Chairman)  
J Barry  
U Bundgaard-Jorgensen  
K-H Büchel  
T Borressen  
M Carrondo  
K De Winter  
B Diderichsen  
J Empis  
M Esteban  
D Evered  
J M Fernandez-Sousa  
K Frethem  
S Gerhartz  
M Greco  
G Harper  
F Holm  
J Kettunen  
H Kuusi  
M Mambrito  
M Peferoen  
P Rabishong  
H Schlumberger  
P Van Den Elzen  
G-J Van Ommen  
C Verrips

### EC Secretariat

A Aguilar  
T Ingemansson



## IRDAC OPINION ON

# LIFE SCIENCES

### on SMEs & the RTD programmes

#### UEAPME

Ind. Derivadas del Aluminio (E)  
 Inst. de Ciencia Aplicada e Tecnologia (PT)  
 Centro para el Desarrollo Tecnológico Industrial (E)  
 Centre Technique du Cuir (F)  
 Gantner Electronic (A)  
 EG Liaison Office (NL)  
 SOLVAY & UNICE (B)  
 INESCOP (E)  
 Cybernetic Technology (B)  
 Inst. de Soldadura e Qualidade (PT)  
 Reson (DK)  
 MKB-Nederland (B)  
 CTH Transport & Handling (NL)  
 INTRACOM (GR)

### Sciences

UNILEVER (NL)  
 Dairygold Co-op Society Ltd (IRL)  
 Danish Development Finance Corporation (DK)  
 ex-BAYER (D)  
 Danish Institute for Fisheries Research (DK)  
 IBET (PT)  
 BEUC  
 Novo Nordisk A/S (DK)  
 INETI (PT)  
 Deretil S (E)  
 (UK)  
 Pharmamar SA (E)  
 Borregaard Chemcell (N)  
 Jenbacher Energiesysteme AG (A)  
 Pasteur Mérieux MSD (F)  
 SmithKline Beecham Pharmaceuticals (UK)  
 Sciencepark Aarhus (DK)  
 Metsä-Serla Oy (FIN)  
 Chemical Industry Federation (FIN)  
 Tecnobiomedica SpA (I)  
 Plant Genetic Systems NV (B)  
 Neuromedics SARL (F)  
 BioConsult Beratungsgesellschaft GmbH (D)  
 Unilever Research Laboratorium (NL)  
 The Human Genome Organisation (UK)  
 Unilever Research Laboratories (NL)

*The organisation of the European Union's LIFE SCIENCES programmes under the Fifth Framework Programme of Research and Technological Development between 1998-2002 should be well targeted, according to the IRDAC group on Life Sciences, chaired by Mr Ganguly (UNILEVER). In an opinion published in February, the group said the new programme should follow the trend already initiated in the current Fourth Framework Programme of focusing on a more theme-based approach.*

The Life Sciences group said the trend from the more knowledge and technology driven types of programme, seen in the Third Framework package, towards a more targeted and mission oriented research programme, had already had a strong impact on European industry. For example, the group found that industrial participation in the biotechnology programme had doubled from Framework III to Framework IV. "This trend should be reinforced in life sciences in Framework V," the opinion says. "Research in Framework V should selectively underpin sustainable wealth creation and employment in Europe as an effective way to improve health and the quality of life of European citizens."

#### Fewer research fields

As well as shifting the emphasis onto a theme-based approach, the group also recommended that Framework V should focus on a smaller number of research fields. It said the programme should be built around a limited number of targets or missions. This means a single Life Sciences programme within Framework V to create synergies, while avoiding overlapping between activities covered by the three existing programmes in Framework IV (Biotechnology, Agriculture and Fisheries as well as Biomedicine and Health).

The group recommends that the Life Sciences Programme should target a number of industrial fields: healthy and functional foods, pharmaceuticals, biochemicals and the cell factory, forestry/woods, the fisheries industry,

agriculture/farming, and medical and health research. As an issue of principle, the group says the new structure should ensure that the needs of the markets and society – both general and specific – are properly identified and articulated in all of the targets.

#### Enabling activities

But the group says that a second type of activity should also be set up, involving a core of enabling activities to underpin research. The group wants more contact between the projects, and a greater integration at a horizontal level. This could include integration across scientific disciplines – particularly between biological and engineering concepts – across industrial sectors, and integration of customers needs. "This would fulfil the current imperatives to meet user and market needs," the opinion says. This is linked to another recommendation, that mechanisms should be set up to help small and medium-sized enterprises to benefit from the Framework V activities. The opinion says that Europe has a strong scientific basis but has generally been poor in translating results from research into commercially successful products. "The Commission must be aware that the traditional separation between fundamental and applied research is gradually becoming smaller, particularly in life sciences, since the achievements of fundamental research are translated faster into concrete uses than has been the case in the past," the opinion says. "The rapid pace of change will require Europe to be very agile in converting new RTD opportunities into viable products." ■



# EUROPEAN COMMISSION TAKES ON BOARD IRDAC'S VIEWS

IRDAC has noted with great satisfaction that the Commission proposal on Framework Programme V is very much in line with the IRDAC Opinion "Towards Framework Programme V". The table below compares the two documents. The most striking difference is the higher emphasis which IRDAC puts on the objective of strengthening the competitiveness of European industry. As IRDAC's new Chairman, Mr List, put it: "Although the Commission proposal very much reflects IRDAC's views, we have to remain alert that in the development of the specific RTD programmes and their workplans, the strengthening of industrial competitiveness remains a predominant objective."

## Timetable for the preparation of the Framework Programme V\*

<b>April 1997:</b>	Transmission of the Commission's final proposal to the Council of Ministers and the European Parliament
<b>Feb-March 1998:</b>	Adoption of the Framework Programme
<b>May-July 1998:</b>	Adoption of the specific programmes
<b>Oct-Dec 1998:</b>	Launch of the first calls for proposals

\* projected dates

IRDAC OPINION "TOWARDS FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME V"	EUROPEAN COMMISSION PROPOSAL ON FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME V
"Need for a new approach; Framework Programme V should not be a simple continuation of Framework Programme IV"	"A new approach to Community research"
Main objective: "A strengthening of the competitiveness of European industry"	Main objectives: "Basically of a socio-economic nature", solving problems of society and industry.
"Concentration and selectivity"	"Concentration and efficacy"
8 specific RTD programmes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Life Sciences and Technologies</li> <li>• ICT</li> <li>• Industrial &amp; Materials Technologies</li> <li>• Energy</li> <li>• Transport</li> <li>• International Cooperation</li> <li>• Knowledge infrastructure</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Environment</li> </ul>	6 specific RTD programmes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unlocking the resources of the living world and the ecosystem</li> <li>• Creating a user-friendly information society</li> <li>• Promoting competitive and sustainable growth</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Confirming the international role of European research</li> <li>• Improving human potential</li> <li>• Innovation and the participation of SMEs</li> </ul>
"Dissemination and exploitation activities to be implemented via the specific RTD programmes"	Dissemination and exploitation activities to be implemented via the thematic programmes with a central coordination
"SME-related measures to be implemented via the specific RTD programmes (no SME ghetto!); however, need for a centralised management and coordination of these measures. Creation of a 'guichet unique'"	SME-related measures to be implemented via the thematic programmes. Central management of a "guichet unique" for the installation of these measures
"Rationalisation of information and assistance networks (e.g. CRAFT Focal Points, Innovation Relay Centres)"	"Rationalisation and coordination of information and assistance networks"
Re-engineering of programme management. Need for more flexibility, more transparency	"New approach to programme management". Introduction of "modern, well-adapted, efficient and transparent management methods".

FOLLOW UP BY THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION TO IRDAC ADVICE ON LIFE SCIENCES	
IRDAC recommendations	EC proposal for Framework Programme V
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 'Drive research to wealth creation and employment'</li> <li>• A single Life Sciences programme</li> <li>• Targeted and core activities</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Healthy and functional food</li> <li>• Forestry/Woods</li> <li>• Agriculture/Farming</li> <li>• Fisheries industry</li> <li>• Biochemicals and Cell Factory</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vaccines, new antimicrobials</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 'Put European research at the service of social and economic objectives of the EU'</li> <li>• Theme 1: Unlocking the resources of the living world and the ecosystem</li> <li>• Key and generic actions</li> </ul> Key actions on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Healthy foods</li> <li>• Novel rural and coastal area</li> <li>• The Cell Factory</li> <li>• Viral and infectious diseases</li> </ul>



## Six RTD Programmes broken down into sixteen proposed key actions

(Draft structure of the Framework Programme V - April 1997)

### THEMATIC PROGRAMMES

Resources of the living world and the ecosystem

1. Health and food
2. Control of viral and other infectious diseases
3. The "cell factory"
4. Management and quality of water
5. Environment and health
6. Integrated development of rural and coastal areas

### Creating a user-friendly information Society

1. Systems and services for citizens
2. New methods of work and electronic trade.
3. Multimedia content
4. Essential technologies and infrastructures

### Promoting competitive and sustainable growth

1. Products, processes, organisation
2. Sustainable mobility and intermodality
3. New perspectives in aeronautics
4. Marine technologies
5. Advanced energy systems and services
6. The city of tomorrow

### HORIZONTAL PROGRAMMES

- International role of Community research
- Innovation and participation of SMEs
- Improving Human Potential

## Framework Programme V - Budgetary issues

The Commission is not yet ready to propose a global budget for the Framework Programme V. Nevertheless, the Commission considers that the percentage of the EU GNP allocated to the Framework Programme IV, on average, between 1995 and 1998, must be the minimum allocated for the global budget of the Framework Programme V, this percentage being applied on the expected GNP, on average, between 1999 and 2002. Following is a proposed outline of the distribution of the Framework Programme V's budget to the various actions:

- ◆ "European Community" Framework Programme: 91% of the total Framework Programme V budget.

Indirect actions: 86%.

Out of this funding will come:

- 84% dedicated to the first action (three Thematic Programmes, each allocated the same resources at 28% each);
- 3.5% to the second action (International Cooperation);
- 2.5% to the third action (Dissemination and Exploitation of results);
- 10% to the fourth action (Training and Mobility of Researchers).

Direct actions: (Joint Research Centre): 5%

- ◆ EURATOM Framework Programme: 9% out of which:

Indirect actions (Fusion and Fission): 7%

Direct actions (Joint Research Centre): 2%

## Letter of Mr Farge to the readers of IRDAC



*"The last IRDAC Plenum was my final meeting as IRDAC Chairman and IRDAC member. After 6 years, I considered that it was time to hand over the torch to someone else and I am very happy that Helmut List volunteered to step in. His personal nomination by Commissioner Cresson is confirmation of the confidence which she and her colleagues Commissioners Bangemann and Kinnock have in our Committee."*

Over the past years, IRDAC has developed into the modern and high-level committee which it is today. IRDAC Opinions are listened to by the European Commission, European Parliament and the Council of Ministers.

Looking back over the past 6 years, there are a number of areas in which IRDAC has been particularly successful (meaning that the European Commission took on board our comments!). In this context, I refer in particular to the specific programmes on Industrial and Materials Technologies, on Life Sciences, the CRAFT action for SMEs, and the ESPRIT programme which has become much more end-user oriented.

Unfortunately, there were also areas in which the European Commission did not completely follow IRDAC's advice. The programme on the Training and Mobility of Researchers is still too academic and also the ones on Non-nuclear Energy and the Environment still do not have enough industrial relevance and participation.

Let us hope that Framework Programme V will bring change. The first indications are positive. In conformity with the wishes of IRDAC, there is going to be much

more concentration and selectivity on areas of importance to European industry and society as a whole. Furthermore, the notion of a challenge-oriented approach favoured by IRDAC is introduced through the "key actions" concept.

However, on the decision-making process I fear that little will change. Still, as Viscount Davignon put it at the IRDAC Plenum, we cannot go on with the current situation in which the Framework Programme is decided upon by unanimity. Making strategic choices and setting priorities by unanimous vote is impossible. For this reason, it is my strong conviction that the Framework Programme should be adopted by qualified majority. I have called upon each member of IRDAC to contact the responsible minister of research in his country to make a plea for change. The upcoming Intergovernmental Conference during the Dutch Presidency provides an ideal occasion to remedy this.

In my opinion, the future of IRDAC as an advisory body with its current form and working methods has to be examined in the light of the new content and structure of Framework Programme V. One thing is, however, clear. IRDAC can only function properly if there is a real commitment from its members and

industry as a whole. Another prerequisite is a commitment from and good collaboration with the Commissioners responsible and the different services of the Commission. So far, this has been the case, in particular our relations with DGs III, VII, XII, XIII and XXII have been excellent. This has allowed us to put in practice IRDAC's new mandate which is broader than just RTD.

The European Commission should constantly be asked to indicate what it has done with IRDAC Opinions and reports. Such a feedback is necessary to assess our impact and keep the participants in our Round Tables motivated.

Finally, I would like to thank all IRDAC members and the more than 1,000 senior industrialists who participated to IRDAC round tables over the last 6 years for their excellent cooperation and friendship. Being Chairman of IRDAC has allowed me to make many new friends and to be involved in fascinating discussions. It has proven that despite our different backgrounds and nationalities, cooperation across borders is not only possible but also very rewarding. ■

Yves Farge



# Update Fourth Framework Programme

Calls for proposals to be published\* in the Official Journal

Programme	Call	Date of publication
Information technologies (ESPRIT) (jointly with BRITE EURAM)	Open Call in various tasks of all domains	15.3.97
	Open Call: Intelligent Manufacturing Systems	15.4.97
Standards, Measurements and Testing	Dedicated call (CEN, ETSI, CENELEC) in support to Community policies	17.6.97
	Call for research linked to written standards and technical support for commerce, measurements in the service of society	17.6.97
Biotechnology	Calls in the following areas: cell factories, genome sequencing, animal biotechnology, cell communications in neurosciences, transdisease vaccinology, structure/function relationships, biosafety, biodiversity, infrastructures, horizontal activities. Demonstration projects in all areas.	15.6.97
Agriculture and Fisheries	Calls in the following areas: generic science & advanced technologies for nutritious foods, agriculture, forestry & rural development, fishing & fish farming	15.9.97
Non-Nuclear Energy (THERMIE component)	Call for targeted type A demonstration projects (rational use of energy, renewable energies, fossil fuels).	15.9.97
Targeted Socio Economic Research	Science and technology policy options, research into education and training, research into social integration and exclusion	Sept. 97
International Cooperation Inco-Copernicus	Science and technology cooperation with developing countries	15.4.97
Dissemination & Exploitation of Results	European networks & services of technology transfer & innovation support; European Innovation Monitoring System; Regional actions	15.6.97
	Increasing public awareness (transfer of best practices)	15.9.97
Training & Mobility of Researchers & return grants)	Marie Curie Research Training Grants (post-graduate, post-doctoral)	16.9.97
	Euroconferences, summer schools & practical training courses	16.9.97
		15.12.97
Measures for SMEs CRAFT	Open Call	

**IRDAC NEWS on the Web!** <http://europa.eu.int/en/comm/dg12/irdac.html>

\*Several of these programmes have continuously open calls for support and accompanying measures, thematic networks, training grants, technology stimulation measures for SMEs (final submission deadline: end 1997/begin 1998).

## IRDAC Calendar

### ROUND TABLES

Model Contract (14 May)  
Satellites (29 May)  
Innovation Action Plan (24 June)  
Industrial PhD scheme (25 June)  
Green Book on Mobility (June/July)  
Specific RTD Programmes under FP5 (October)  
Management (December)

### IRDAC STEERING

13 June, 25 July, 19 September,  
21 November, 16 December

### IRDAC PLENUM

23 October

### IRDAC welcomes new Irish member,



Mr Matthew Walsh, Managing Director of Waterford Foods, PLC

### Editorial board IRDAC News:

G. Martens, R. Bryssinck,  
C. Hérickx, A. Klamminger,  
C. Porter, R.J. Smits, M.R. Queiró

**More information on IRDAC**  
News or on IRDAC in general can be obtained at the IRDAC secretariat. Fax: +32.2. 295.43.61

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