



# IRDAC

Industrial R&D Advisory Committee of the European Commission

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

# NEWS

Brussels - N° 14  
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*Interview with Mr. Y. Michot  
IRDAC Member and  
Chairman and CEO  
of AÉROSPATIALE*

## ESTABLISHING LINKS FOR COMPETITIVENESS

**Y**our company has a lot of experience with the Framework Programmes. What have they been able to offer you?

We have a full decade's worth of experience of the Framework Programmes. The European Commission's first significant initiative in the aeronautics sector was in 1989, when it launched a specific action within the Framework Programme as a consequence of what was then called the "EUROMART" initiative. But right from the start, these activities were firmly grounded in the proposals the European aerospace companies and research centres had already sent in.

And this has been the programmes' main strength: establishing firm links between European companies, research centres and the Commission.

As a result, the research projects launched under the aeronautics initiative of the Framework Programme are firmly in tune with the technical needs of industry. More generally, the whole Framework Programme, including the activities in electronics and other industrial technologies, plays an important role in strengthening European industry.

*IRDAC has said Framework Programme V should be more focused and concentrated. Why?*

The level of pan-European cooperation makes aeronautics a natural focal point for a more focused and concentrated Framework Programme V. The intense competition between Europe and

the United States in this sector is another factor which should encourage a concentration of research efforts.

In fact, studies have consistently shown that the global level of direct and indirect support for the aerospace industry in the US is five to ten times that in Europe. Indeed, the level of concentration in this sector - especially after the recent merger between Boeing and McDonnell Douglas - has also no equivalent in any other manufacturing field. It is thus urgent not only to intensify EU activities in aeronautical research, but also to complement them with "large-scale integration programmes". The aerospace industry has already made proposals in a report entitled "European Integrated Aeronautics Programme", which called

for concurrent engineering developments, and actions for more efficient and more environmentally friendly aircraft. One example of EU research which we'd like to see is in pre-feasibility studies linked to the tilt rotor aircraft.

*The final plans for Framework Programme V are very close to those originally proposed by IRDAC. But are there any issues which are not covered?*

We felt the European Commission's proposal was a good compromise. But our main concerns at this stage are not with the proposal itself but the implementation process. We are especially concerned about the timing and the budget. The Programme will only bear fruit if it has enough funding, (Continued on page 2)



## EU Research Ministers agree on 14 billion ECU for Framework Programme V

**"A negative signal has been sent to European industry"**

The Council of Research Ministers, meeting on February 12, reached a political agreement on Framework Programme V, with an overall budget of 14 billion ECU and seven specific programmes including four thematic programmes. The 14 billion budget is less - in real terms - than the updated Framework Programme IV (1994-1998) and is far smaller than the Commission's and the Parliament's respective proposals of 16.3 billion and 16.7 billion ECU. "I very much hope that the Parliament will help us to raise the threshold", says Commissioner Cresson. (Continued on page 7)

MR. MICHOT

Continued from page 1

especially in the aeronautics field. If the level of funding is not enough, we will be unable to complete the technology funding for large-scale integration programmes. It would also be extremely harmful if the schedule of Framework Programme V is not met, but we are confident that Member States and the European Parliament will take the necessary decisions to increase the budget, while avoiding a gap between Framework Programme IV and Framework Programme V.

*What do you think of the management of the EU research and development programmes?*

We have already enjoyed good exchanges between our industry and the Commission through the aeronautics industrial management groups. We have also managed to build a sort of industrial consensus through the sector as most of the European companies are involved directly or indirectly in the Airbus consortium. More recently, the Aeronautics Task Force has proved extremely helpful. Some improvements, however, would be welcome. For example, there could be more coherence between strategic operations and case-by-case decisions, as strategic orientations are not always implemented at the operational level through the committee system responsible for the attribution of funding.

*What other measures should the Commission undertake to improve the input of its R&D programmes?*

The Commission's scope for action is wide and not limited to R&D funding. The Commission could still improve input, and more globally the input of European public and industrial R&D efforts. The Commission decision to set up a high-technology space instrument for vegetation studies is a good example: it both supports technology in Europe and helps its applications.

The Commission's direct and indirect influence on public infrastructure could also play a key role in improving EU R&D in the field of air traffic management, or in the application of global positioning systems. In fact, in almost every field of action by the Commission provides opportunities for enhancing the input of European R&D. ■

## “EUROPE HAS TO INVEST MORE IN RESEARCH”

*“...and has to do so in a more co-ordinated or even integrated way”*

*According to Edith Cresson, the European Research Commissioner, this should be Europe's RTD response to the challenges of the 21st century.*

Speaking at last year's IRDAC plenary session in Strasbourg, the Commissioner said the European Union's research policy had to respond effectively to the new challenges that have emerged in the past few years. These include market globalisation, new economic competitors, information revolutions, the acceleration of scientific and technological progress and the continuing rise in the costs of research.

Mrs Cresson told the plenary session on October 23 that the Fifth Framework Research Programme was designed with these factors in mind. For her, the new challenges meant that the next generation of research programmes had to address contemporary issues and meet the everyday aspirations of Europe's citizens. “The research programmes of the EU have undoubtedly had a beneficial effect,” Mrs Cresson said. “Nevertheless, their impact on an economic and social basis is limited.”

### **Concentration and flexibility - keys to competitiveness**

The new Framework Programme was designed not merely on the basis of scientific and technological factors but also on economic and social needs and its everyday consumer demands. “Its content is designed to address the major problems of the EU on public health, transport, energy, urban development, environment, on the perspective to reinforce European competitiveness in these domains”, Mrs Cresson said.

This means that concentration and flexibility need to be the by-words for the new mechanisms in the Framework Programme V. “We will try to deal with the problems as they are in reality, taking into account their diversity and the complexity of the interactions between them”, the Commissioner said. “A great effort was undertaken to concentrate the resources on a limited number of key problems.”

The demand for concentration is not, however, limited to the EU's research programmes. In business, too, there is an increasing trend towards mergers, especially among

companies with major research operations. The recent link-up between the American aircraft manufacturers Boeing and McDonnell-Douglas was emblematic, Mrs Cresson said, but others have taken place in industrial sectors like electronics, telecommunications, chemicals and pharmaceuticals. “It set a clear trend”, she said: “European companies have no choice. They have to get together and form large groups if they want to develop effective worldwide strategies”. And she did not hide her feeling that European companies should be able to benefit from public support for their research operations, so they could compete effectively at a global level.

### **Crucial timing**

The Framework Programme V also comes at a time when the EU is entering a crucial phase in its history, with both Economic and Monetary Union (EMU) and the imminent enlargement to the Central and Eastern European countries. Mrs Cresson said these two developments

## Mrs Cresson outlines future relationship with industry

Mrs Cresson's address to the IRDAC plenary included an outline of the future relations between industry and the Commission in research matters. “The policy requires the development of the relations between industry and the Commission at two different levels”, she said.

“The first is the actual implementation of the programmes, and notably, the key actions. These programmes should be performed in close cooperation with all areas concerned - the scientific community, the end-users and of course, industry. As you probably know, we intend to bring together representatives of each of these groups in ad hoc structures for opinion and advice, which will be associated with the programmes. These will form the “Advisory Boards”.

“The second level is about a strategic reflection on major guidelines for the European research policy. It is at this level that

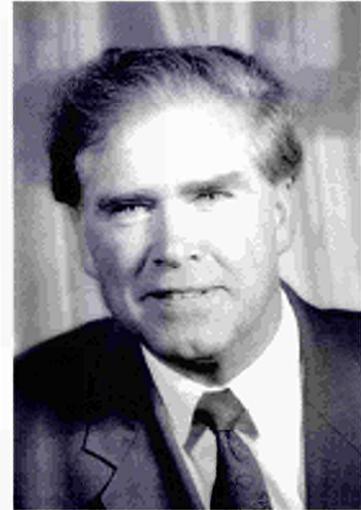




**E. Cresson:**  
 "I would like to thank the members of IRDAC for their various contributions to the Framework Programme V. The final text reflects much of their analysis and recommendations. It is quite natural that

*the Commission should use the advice of industry in this manner as its objective is to improve Europe's research instruments.."*

## NO TIME TO WASTE!



**H. List**  
 Chairman  
 of IRDAC

*IRDAC has compared its position on Framework Programme V with those of the European Commission, Member States and European Parliament.*

would have inevitable repercussions, which should be exploited by European business. "Enlargement is an historic obligation which can bring, in the long term, promising perspectives, but has necessarily to be preceded by a reform of the structures, of the decision mechanisms and of the institutions of the EU", she said.

With that in mind, it was no accident that the Commission's Agenda 2000 reform package released last July singled out what it called the "policies of knowledge", i.e. those policies regarding research, education, training and innovation. Agenda 2000 suggested raising the funds for these policies at a quicker rate than the EU's Gross National Product, which is the usual reference for the evolution of EU expenses. "This is an unequivocal sign of recognition for the research policy," Mrs Cresson said. "For a long time research policy has been seen as somewhat marginal, but now it has to get at the very heart of the EU's concerns, as an answer to the great challenges that it will be facing: growth, competitiveness and employment." ■

IRDAC's contribution operates. In the past few months, your Committee have offered very useful advice on a number of important subjects: the Innovation Action Plan, SMEs and research programmes, navigation satellites, venture capital and the legal and regulatory framework for research and innovation. I would particularly like to thank IRDAC for the advice on the scientific and technological cooperation agreement with the United States. "The question of "effective reciprocity" to which you have alerted the Commission, cannot be entirely settled in the wording of the agreements. I expect, though, that guarantee measures will be anticipated in other settings, notably in the rules of participation for the Framework Programme. That's what I will propose to the Commission and to the Council.

"As for future action, I would like know your opinion on the financing of activities in the satellite sector, on the management of the EU's research programmes or on any upcoming project of agreement of scientific co-operation. In addition to this advice, IRDAC is very welcome, on its own initiative, to alert me to any kind of relevant developments or problems from industry's perspective in the EU's research policy. This should occur in the framework of a reinforced consulting structure, adapted to the features of the Framework Programme V.

**I**n this context IRDAC made the following observations:

- There is a general consensus on the need for concentration. Everyone seems to agree that the current situation of having 22 specific programmes cannot be continued. The remaining differences were about the question of whether there should be 3, 4 or 5 thematic programmes and whether or not there is a need for 1 or 2 key actions in addition. Although IRDAC welcomes this overall consensus between the institutions, it would like to warn against the danger of a further dilution beyond 4 thematic programmes as the debate continues.
- With regard to the management of the Community RTD programmes, there is a general plea for greater transparency, efficiency and rapidity. Although in recent years the European Commission has made enormous progress in this field, there is still room for further improvement. In this context, IRDAC would like to re-state its position that the management of the Community RTD programmes should remain the responsibility of the Commission. Our Committee is strongly against any form of decentralisation or re-nationalisation of Community research.
- The strengthening of the competitiveness of European industry should remain the key objective of the Community Framework Programme. IRDAC is in particular glad to note that not only Mrs Cresson is supporting this initiative, but also that Mrs Quisthoudt-Rowohl (European Parliament - CERT) has put this point so explicitly in her report on Framework Programme V.

- In budgetary terms, there should be as a minimal option the continuation of Community RTD spending at current levels, both as a percentage of GNP and of the overall Community budget. A decrease in spending is, for IRDAC, unacceptable.
- On the future consultative structure, IRDAC welcomes the creation of the advisory groups. The membership of each one of these groups should consist of at least 50% industrialists. Furthermore, it is IRDAC's strong belief that in the advisory groups there is no room for government officials (to avoid a politization), other than making suggestions for possible members coming from the academic and industrial worlds.
- Finally, international cooperation. IRDAC is of the opinion that greater attention should be paid to the implications of the current trend towards globalisation of both production and RTD for Framework Programme V. ■

IRDAC has noted with great interest and apprehension the results of the Research Council of 12 February 1998. Although progress was made, and the agreed structure for the Framework Programme is very much in line with IRDAC's views, the overall budget gives too negative a signal. For the first time, the EU would be taking a step backwards, and this at a time when it should be deploying all its efforts to close the gap with Europe's competitors as regards RTD investment. IRDAC is confident that the budget for the Framework Programme will be increased during the remaining stages of the co-decision procedure with the Parliament, but worries about the possible slipping of the timetable. It would be very negative for the image and the continuity of Community research if Framework Programme V and its specific RTD programmes would not be decided upon before 1999.

# RULES OF PARTICIPATION AND DISSEMINATION



*IRDAC has established a Working Group, chaired by Mr H. Brüggemann, to advise the Commission preparing the new Model Contract for Framework Programme V. Since the rules for participation and dissemination of results will largely determine the new Model Contract, the Working Group's first activity was to examine the Commission's proposal for these rules.*



**H. Brüggemann**  
(Daimler-Benz)  
Chairman  
of the Working Group

According to IRDAC, the Commission proposal for the Rules of Participation and Dissemination contains improvements with regard to the current rules (related to FP4). However there are several points of concern.

These rules, based on article 130 J of the EU Treaty, shall provide "a complete, coherent and transparent framework so that the specific programmes implementing the Fifth Framework Programme may be carried out in a harmonised manner". They define principles for the level of Community financial participation and the protection of Intellectual Property Rights.

The Commission's proposal integrates several rules and experience from Framework Programme IV with new aspects and approaches adapted to the structure and priorities of Framework Programme V. Calls for proposals will continue to be the main procedure to attract RTD projects, providing equal opportunities for all those involved in research, and the consortia carrying out these projects will necessarily have a transnational character.

Also already in force in Framework Programme IV were the aspects of the establishment of research contracts on the basis of the principle of reimbursing eligible costs and the obligation for either exploitation or dissemination of the research results.

IRDAC considers the fact that the rules of participation and those of dissemination are integrated into a single Council Decision, thus facilitating their handling and comprehensibility, as an improvement with regard to the current rules. This Committee also welcomes the greater emphasis put on exploitation of RTD results (instead of dissemination), namely by the insertion of the "exclusive right" possibility, and the fact that potential users will also be entitled, in specific and consented cases, to receive Community funding.

Other novelties in the Commission proposal were received somewhat more cautiously by IRDAC, such as the new and unclear definitions, the "modulation" or mixture of funding levels and Intellectual Property Rights for the R&D parts of the Integrated Projects, and the arrangements for the Technology Implementation Plan and for third country participation which, according to IRDAC should be adapted to better suit the interests of European industry.

The Rules of Participation and Dissemination will be further elaborated for their implementation and detailed in the Application Rules, the Model Contract and partly, according to the need, in the specific RTD Programmes. IRDAC will be again providing the Commission with input. ■

## Improvements

- Rules of Participation and Rules of Dissemination are integrated into one single Council Decision (and not two, which was the case under Framework Programme IV), thus facilitating the handling and comprehensibility of the Rules;
- the greater emphasis put on exploitation of RTD results instead of dissemination (thus supporting innovation);
- in this context, the insertion of the "exclusive rights" possibility;
- potential users will also be entitled, in specific and consented cases, to receive Community funding.

## Concerns

- the introduction of new and unclear terminology and definitions, not adapted to the needs and interests of industry;
- too many and confusing criteria for the elaboration and assessment of proposals;
- in integrated projects the weighted average of "modulated" funding levels for the research and demonstration parts with their "modulated" obligations and rights;
- the unclear arrangements concerning third country participation;
- the scope of the Technology Implementation Plan.

Framework Programme V

## IRDAC PRIORITIES REMAIN

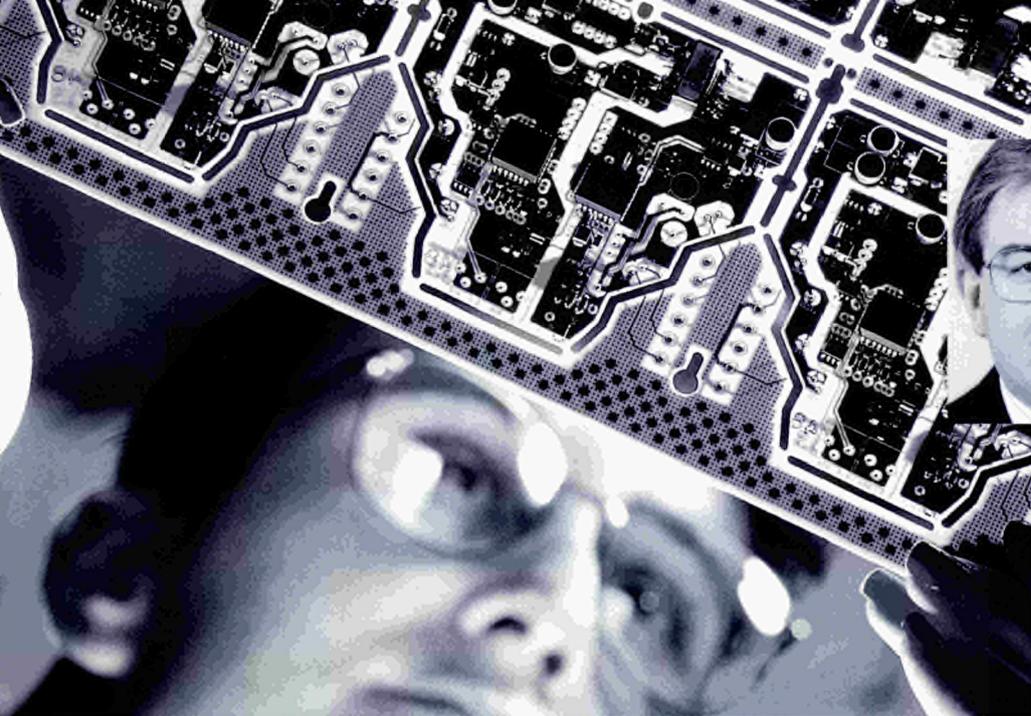
*Despite coming more than 18 months after IRDAC's original opinion on Framework Programme V, the priorities of the Council compromise are remarkably similar to the IRDAC Opinion presented to Mrs Cresson in June 1996.*

Already when the Commission made its own proposal in April 1997 for Framework Programme V, it relied heavily on the IRDAC Opinion, whose basic principles were:

- Need for a new approach - FP5 should not be a simple continuation of FP4.
- FP5 should have as its main aim strengthening the competitiveness of European industry.
- Need for concentration and selectivity.
- Need for re-engineering of programme management - more flexibility and more transparency.

### FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME V FOR RTD (1998-2002) – EC FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME

Council Common Position (12/02/1998)	IRDAC Opinion "Towards Framework Programme V" (14/06/1996)
<p><b>Quality of life and management of living resources (2,239 MECUs)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• food, nutrition and health</li> <li>• control of infectious diseases</li> <li>• "cell factory"</li> <li>• environment and health</li> <li>• sustainable agriculture, fisheries and forestry, including integrated development of rural areas</li> <li>• the ageing population</li> </ul>	<p><b>Life Sciences and Technologies</b>  <b>Remarks:</b> IRDAC's proposal is remarkably similar to the Council's position. IRDAC pleads for a good integration of the agro industrial, biotechnological and biomedical research programmes and favours a separation of the Life Sciences and Environment. IRDAC proposed specific action on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Healthy and functional food</li> <li>• Vaccines, new antimicrobials</li> <li>• Biochemicals and cell factory</li> <li>• Agriculture/farming</li> <li>• Forestry/woods.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Creating a user-friendly information society (3,363 MECUs)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• systems and services for the citizen - new methods of work and electronic commerce</li> <li>• multimedia content and tools</li> <li>• essential technologies and infrastructures</li> </ul>	<p><b>Information and Communications Technologies</b>  <b>Remarks:</b> IRDAC calls for the integration of the three existing programmes into a single one. It pleads for close monitoring of the international cooperation dimension, a good targeting of the citizen as an end-user of technology and emphasis on the integration of technologies, e.g. design, modelling and simulation. Flexibility is an essential requirement particularly in this area (necessity of rapid decision making and a regularly updated workplan).</p>
<p><b>Promoting competitive and sustainable growth (2,389 MECUs)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• innovative products, processes, organisation</li> <li>• sustainable mobility and intermodality</li> <li>• land transport and marine technologies – new perspectives in aeronautics</li> </ul>	<p><b>Industrial and Materials Technologies</b>  <b>Remarks:</b> Underline need to strengthen through all programmes and key actions the competitiveness of European industry. Avoid too much of a socio-economic approach (e.g. in City of Tomorrow). Give high priority to mobility issues (refer to mobility rather than transport).</p>
<p><b>Energy, environment and sustainable development</b></p> <p><b>1. Environment and sustainable development (1,044 MECUs)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• sustainable management and quality of water</li> <li>• global change, climate and biodiversity</li> <li>• sustainable marine ecosystems – the city of tomorrow and cultural heritage</li> </ul> <p><b>2. Energy (1,004 MECUs)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• cleaner energy systems, including renewables</li> <li>• economic and efficient energy for a competitive Europe</li> </ul>	<p><b>Environment</b>  <b>Remarks:</b> The programme should be less focussed on observation, monitoring and data-collecting and more on problem-solving.</p> <p><b>Energy</b>  <b>Remarks:</b> IRDAC calls for the definition of a clear EU strategy, combining nuclear fusion, fission, fossil fuels and renewables in a single coherent action. More attention should be given to the rational use of energy.</p>
<p><b>Confirming the international role of community research, (458 MECUs)</b></p>	<p><b>International Cooperation</b>  <b>Remarks:</b> IRDAC wants industry to decide with whom it wants to cooperate in a Community project. Therefore it favours the participation of non-Member States to Community RTD programmes, regarded that the notions of "mutual interest" and "effective reciprocity" are guaranteed and that no transfer of funds will take place to non-EU participants. IPR issues are of great importance under this heading.</p>
<p><b>Innovation and encouragement of SME participation (350 MECUs)</b></p>	<p><b>Innovation and participation of SMEs</b>  <b>Remarks:</b> IRDAC is not in favour of a specific programme in this field and feels that these should be integrated parts of the thematic programmes.</p>
<p><b>Improving human research potential and the socio-economic knowledge base (1205 MECUs)</b></p>	<p><b>Knowledge Infrastructure</b>  <b>Remarks:</b> The key features proposed by IRDAC in this area are: define clear areas of priority, give more attention to aspects such as training and mobility of engineers and technicians (not only researchers), with a high priority given to cooperation between industry and education bodies; access to large-scale facilities and technology forecasting and assessment. IRDAC is proposing a European Industrial Host Fellowship Scheme.</p>



*David Giachardi  
Executive Director  
COURTAULDS plc*

## IT'S ALL ABOUT QUALITY AND RELEVANCE

*"It's clear that the added value of the Framework Programmes lies in the partnerships they forge", contends Dr David Giachardi. Dr Giachardi chaired an IRDAC Round Table on the Management of the Community RTD Programmes held in Brussels on 19 February. About 20 members of IRDAC and other senior industrialists attended.*

**D**avid Giachardi, 49, is an executive director of the London-based international chemicals group Courtaulds plc, specialising in coatings, sealants and fibres. He served with IRDAC from 1992 to 1996.

The Round Table reached some clear conclusions about the EU's RTD programmes, Giachardi believes. The Commission's management of RTD is satisfactory but needs continuous monitoring to ensure that it maintains high levels of quality, transparency and speed, and to meet the new challenges of Framework Programme V.

In particular, the Commission should pay more attention to the monitoring of projects in progress, he says. "Its evaluation of proposals is good. But it must be done quicker, with less frustration for applicants. And the need for transparency must be reconciled with the importance industry attaches to confidentiality." Speed – 'time-to-market' – is of vital concern to industry," says Giachardi. "Proposals and contracts must be dealt with more swiftly, particularly in the case of SMEs."

"Framework Programme V introduces new factors for RTD management. Its problem-solving aspects require different management from the traditional knowledge-generating projects of earlier Framework Programmes." He urges the Commission to launch a benchmarking exercise with other European and national RTD funding agencies such as the European Space Agency. And he believes Brussels still has much to learn from industry in the management of complex RTD projects.

### **Link with company strategy**

Speaking more personally about his own experiences as a chemist and manager with Courtaulds over the past 18 years, Giachardi says bluntly that there is only a limited correlation between his company's RTD programmes and publicly funded RTD programmes, which he believes to be quite logical. Corporate RTD strategy is shaped by a strategic business plan, he explains. "It's rare to make major changes in this strategy. If done, it would be in response to the acquisition or sale of a business, or to a competitive move."

"The existence of a Framework Programme does not affect our strategy. Where such programmes as Framework may impinge on corporate RTD is in such areas as competitiveness, quality of life, employment, and standards." "The company may use publicly funded RTD - 'if convenient' - in the generation of new knowledge, for example. Among the criteria for getting involved in such projects he cites limited commercial sensitivity and a chance to broaden company staff experience."

## Each one his own role

"My own views", Giachardi acknowledges, "are conditioned by working in an Anglo-Saxon industrial and financial culture, in chemical and related sectors. They also draw heavily on experiences when involved with IRDAC and the thinking involved in the drafting of its strategy paper in 1992." They lead him to the conclusion that "industry has to be close to the market and government distant from the market, in most RTD activities".

That observation would seem obvious to anyone in the chemical industry, which has long recognised funding and managing of RTD as its own responsibility. Sectors which have had a longer involvement with government as a direct customer, such as defence and aerospace, or as an owner, such as telecoms, "would have a different mind-set", he says. Privately-funded industrial RTD is designed to improve and strengthen the competitive position of a company. "Technically-based enterprises need a constant flow of new products and process improvements in order to satisfy customers".

Giachardi quotes a way they state it in Courtaulds: "better, faster, or more distinctively than the international competition". But while high-quality RTD can be a necessary condition for a company, it can never be a sufficient condition, he says. "Good technology alone is not enough." "As world markets open and competition in many sectors becomes ever more international, developing Europe's science base and building innovative business from it becomes increasingly important if we are to compensate for high European employment, energy and regulatory costs relative to its new competitors", Giachardi believes. He thinks Europe can justify publicly-funded RTD on the basis that it adds to European competitiveness, even given the fact that its RTD budget is small compared, say, with that for agriculture.

## Forecasting and Assessment

Dr Giachardi points to what he sees as an important factor that Brussels should have considered in planning Framework Programme V. This is the exercise known as Foresight in the UK, where it was launched in 1993, but which has origins in similar exercises in other EU states. They all attempt to think logically about where a nation can best allocate its RTD resources. They could be vital in ensuring Framework Programme V's relevant to European prosperity. David Giachardi concludes that Brussels should always apply certain tests to any proposals for RTD funding. Should the taxpayer fund it? Should Brussels fund it? How will it contribute to competitiveness in Europe, or quality of life? Does it pass the test of "quality and relevance"? "And, always, is there a better way of achieving the same objective?" ■



## WHAT IS UEAPME?

By Jan Kamminga,  
IRDAC Member and  
UEAPME President

*UEAPME is the European Association of Craft and Small and Medium-sized Enterprises. It was formed in 1979 when a number of European trade associations and organisations representing SMEs decided to merge their operations. UEAPME is represented at IRDAC by its president.*

### UEAPME - 8 million businesses, 30 million people

UEAPME's members are national trade guilds and SME organisations from the European Union's 15 Member States, as well as SME associations involving non-EU European countries. UEAPME's member organisations currently represent eight million businesses employing some 30 million people. In fact, UEAPME is the main representative of craft, small trades, small and medium-sized enterprises at European level.

UEAPME's main objectives are:

- to inform its members about European developments;
- to promote joint activities;
- to ensure that the interests and views of its members are understood and reflected by the EU institutions.

If UEAPME is to fulfil the last objective successfully, it must ensure that it has good contacts with all the relevant policy makers in Brussels, and beyond. Hans Werner Muller is UEAPME's current Secretary General and his team deals with issues like legal issues, economic and fiscal policy, social affairs, vocational training, external relations and the environment. But UEAPME is also directly affected by the EU's research and development activities, as most of Europe's innovation comes from small companies. We believe that these businesses need as much space as possible to develop new activities and products. It means that UEAPME needs to be properly recognised by the EU's authorities: although policy makers regularly pay lip service to SMEs and their economic importance, it is quite another thing to translate these intentions into concrete support.

### UEAPME and IRDAC

IRDAC was one of the first EU Committees to provide full recognition to the role of SMEs in Europe's economic development. This led to the creation of the CRAFT Programme, which has proved to be an extremely effective instrument allowing SMEs to take part in EU research programme. IRDAC also recognises our importance through my membership, as UEAPME's President, on the IRDAC board. However, a great deal still needs to be done. The discussions on Framework Programme V's specific programmes will begin shortly, and UEAPME will be working hard to ensure that SME's will be able to get the best out of them.

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### "A NEGATIVE SIGNAL HAS BEEN SENT TO EUROPEAN INDUSTRY"

*Continued from page 1*

### EU Research Ministers agree on 14 billion ECU for Framework Programme V

The "common position" was reached by the Council of Research Ministers on the basis of the original proposal of the Commission - formulated in April 1997 and modified at the beginning of this year to take into account most of the amendments of the European Parliament. The compromise will face its second reading in the Parliament and the disagreements over the budget suggest that the conciliation procedure is now inevitable. If the differences are overcome, then the specific programmes should be adopted by Autumn, and the first calls for proposals will be made by the end of this year. The management of Framework Programme V will be discussed during a Ministerial symposium due to be held on April 28.

# Update Fourth Framework Programme

Calls for proposals published\* in the Official Journal

Programme	Call	Date for submission
Information technologies (ESPRIT) Industrial & Materials Technologies (BRITE-EuRam)	Submission of full proposals for the open call Intelligent Manufacturing Systems (jointly with BRITE-Euram) Contact: IMS Secret. - Fax: +32-2-299.45.72	31/3/98 - 20/5/98
Standards, Measurements & Testing	Open call for accompanying measures. Fax: +32-2-295.80.72	30/7/98
Marine Science & Technologies	Preparatory accompanying & support measures. Fax: +32-2-296.30.24	Open call
Biotechnology	Advanced practical workshops Fax: +32-2-299.18.60	15/9/98
Training & Mobility of Researchers	Euroconferences, summer schools & practical training courses Fax: +32-2-296.21.33	31/3/98
Technology Stimulation Measures for SMEs	Open call	8/4/98

\* Several of these programmes have continuously open calls for support and accompanying measures, thematic networks, training grants, technology stimulation measures for SMEs.

## Recent IRDAC Opinions and reports available at the IRDAC Secretariat

1998	Management of EU RTD Programmes Venture Capital ( follow-up) Rules of Participation and Dissemination	in preparation in preparation in preparation
1997	EU-US Science and Technology Agreement First Action Plan for Innovation in Europe Towards a European Host Fellowship Scheme Legal and Regulatory Environment for RTD and Innovation Venture Capital Strategic Issues in Information and Communication Business Life Sciences in Framework Programme V Teaching and Learning : Towards the Learning Society SME and RTD Programmes of the EU	Sept. 1997 Sept. 1997 May 1997 May 1997 April 1997 March 1997 Jan. 1997 Jan. 1997
1996	European Research Action in the Field of Production Technology Priority Actions for Satellite Communications and Navigation Industrial Services Green Paper on Innovation Intellectual Property Rights Towards Framework Programme V Community Energy RTD	Oct. 1996 Oct. 1996 Sept. 1996 July 1996 June 1996 June 1996 Jan 1996

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

## IRDAC Calendar

### ROUND TABLES

Venture Capital	12 March 1998
Model Contract	23 April 1998
State Aids	24 April 1998
Joint Research Centre	date to be confirmed
Outsourcing of RTD	date to be confirmed

### IRDAC PLENUM

19 March 1998

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