

# COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

COM(78) 686 final.

Brussels, 8 December 1978

Draft

---

## COUNCIL DECISION

concerning the conclusion of an agreement on a concerted action project in the field of treatment and use of sewage sludge (cost 68 bis) between the Community and

The Republic of Austria

The Republic of Finland

The Kingdom of Norway

The Kingdom of Sweden

The Swiss Confederation

---

(submitted to the Council by the Commission)

COM(78) 686 final.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE COUNCIL

Subject: Agreement between the EEC and Austria, Finland, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland on a concerted-action project in the field of treatment and use of sewage sludge (COST 68 bis)

A research project directed towards a specific aspect of the problem of sewage sludge was the subject of COST Project 68 ("Treatment of sewage sludge") in the period 1972-74. The agreement for the implementation of this project was signed on 23 november 1971 by the following countries:

Member countries

Belgium  
Denmark  
France  
Germany  
Italy  
Netherlands  
United Kingdom

Non-Member countries

Finland  
Norway  
Turkey  
Sweden  
Switzerland  
Yugoslavia

Following the Council Decision of 15 March 1976 approving a second research programme on the environment and in view of the results obtained in COST Project 68, a Community research programme (concerted-action) in the field of treatment and use of sewage sludge was adopted by the Council on 27 September 1977 + .

Article 6 of the above-mentioned Decision provides for the conclusion of an international agreement between Community and non-member States participating in COST, with a view to ensuring the concertation between the concerted action which is the subject of the said Decision and the relevant programmes undertaken in these States. The Commission has, pursuant to this provision, authorized negotiations to that effect.

The negotiations have been completed and have resulted in the draft agreement which is contained in the Annex to the draft Council decision attached hereto.

This agreement provides

- for a setting-up of a Community-COST concertation Committee
- that the concertation between the Community action and the relevant programmes of Third States will be effected within the said Committee whose secretariat will be ensured by the Commission.

These provisions are in accordance with the scheme of Community-COST Cooperation approved by the Council on 18.7.1978.

The following non-member States have indicated their wish to accede to the Agreement:

The Commission hereby requests the Council to adopt the draft decision concerning conclusion of an agreement on a concerted-action project in the field of treatment and use of sewage sludge (COST 68 bis).

+ ) O.J. No. L 267 du 19.10.1977

Draft Council Decision concerning  
the conclusion of an agreement on  
a concerted-action project in the  
field of Treatment and use of  
sewage sludge (COST 68.bis)

---

The Council of the European Communities,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community,

Having regard to the Council Decision 77/651/EEC of 27 September 1977  
adopting a concerted European Economic Community project in the field of  
treatment and use of sewage sludge (1), and in particular Article 6(1) thereof

Having regard to the proposal from the Commission,

Whereas the Commission has, pursuant to Article 6(2) of the above-  
mentioned Decision, has negotiated an Agreement with certain non-member  
States participating in European cooperation in the field of scientific  
and technical research (COST) with a view to extending the coordination  
which is the subject of the abovementioned decision to research undertaken  
in those States;

Whereas, therefore, this Agreement should be concluded,

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1

An Agreement between the Community and Austria, Finland, Norway,  
Sweden, and Switzerland on a concerted-action project in the field of  
treatment and use of sewage sludge is hereby concluded on behalf  
of the European Economic Community.

The text of the Agreement is annexed hereto.

Article 2

The President of the Council is hereby authorized to designate the  
persons empowered to sign the Agreement and to confer on them the  
necessary powers to commit the Community.

Done at

Date:

COMMUNITY - COST CONCERTATION

AGREEMENT

on a concerted action project in the field of  
treatment and use of sewage sludge (COST 68 bis)

The European Economic Community, hereinafter referred to as "the Community", and Austria, Finland, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, hereinafter referred to as the "Participating Non-Member States",

Whereas a European concerted research project in the field of treatment and use of sewage sludge is likely to contribute effectively to the reduction of environmental pollution and to the more economic use of natural resources;

Whereas a research project directed toward a specific aspect of the problem on sewage sludge, carried out pursuant to an Agreement concluded on 23rd November 1971 in the framework of European Cooperation in the field of Scientific and Technical Research (COST Project 68), produced very encouraging results;

Whereas the Council of the European Communities in its decision of 27th September 1977 adopted a Community concerted action project in the field of treatment and use of sewage sludge;

Whereas the Council of the European Communities agreed on some modalities for cooperation within the COST framework on 18 July 1978;

Whereas the Member States of the Community and the Participating Non-Member States, hereinafter referred to as "the States", carry out research in the fields listed in Annex A, and expect to derive mutual benefit from a coordination of this research;

Whereas the implementation of the research covered by the concerted action programme will require a financial contribution of about 8 million u.a. from the States,

HAVE AGREED AS FOLLOWS:

### Article 1

The Community and the participating non-Member States, hereinafter referred to as "the contracting parties", shall participate for a period extending to 18.10.1980 in a concerted action project in the field of treatment and use of sewage sludge.

This project shall consist in the concertation between the Community concerted action and the relevant programmes of the participating non-Member States.

The national programmes covered by this agreement are listed in Annex A.

The States remain entirely responsible for the research executed by their national institutions or organisation.

### Article 2

The concertation between the contracting parties will be effected through a Community-COST Concertation Committee, hereinafter referred to as "the Committee".

The Committee shall draw up its rules of procedures. Its Secretariat will be provided by the Commission of the European Communities hereinafter referred to as "the Commission".

The terms of reference and the composition of this Committee are defined in Annex B.

### Article 3

In order to ensure optimum efficiency in the execution of this project a project leader shall be appointed by the Commission in agreement with the participating non Member States.

### Article 4

The maximum financial contributions of the contracting parties to the coordination cost shall be

140.000 EUA from the Community for a three year period  
10.000 EUA from each participating non-Member State for the period referred to in Article 1,

the European unit of account being defined by the Financial Regulations of the European Communities in force and by financial arrangements complying therewith. The rules governing the financial execution of the Agreement are set out in Annex C.

Article 5

- (a) Through the Committee, the States shall exchange regularly all useful information concerning the execution of the research covered by the concerted action project. They shall also endeavour to provide information on similar research planned or carried out by other bodies. This information shall be treated as confidential if requested by the States which provides it.
- (b) The Commission in agreement with the Committee shall prepare yearly progress reports on the basis of the information supplied and shall forward them to the States.
- (c) After completion of the concerted action project, the Commission in agreement with the Committee shall forward to the States a general report on the execution and results of the project. This report shall be published by the Commission six months after it has been forwarded, unless a State objects. In this case the report shall be confidential and transmitted at their request, solely to the institution and organisation carrying out a research or production activity justifying access to knowledge resulting from the performance of the research covered by the concerted action project.

Article 6

- (a) Each of the contracting parties shall, after signing this Agreement notify the Secretary-General of the Council of the European Communities as soon as possible of the completion of the procedures required in accordance with its internal provisions for the purpose of implementing this Agreement.
- (b) For the contracting parties which have transmitted the notification provided for in paragraph 1, this Agreement shall enter into force on the first day of the month following the date on which the Community and at least one of the participating Non-Member States have transmitted these notifications.
- (c) For those participating Non-Member States which transmit this notification after the entry into force of this Agreement, it shall come into force on the date of receipt of the notification.
- (d) Participating non-Member States which have not yet transmitted this notification at the time of entry into force of this Agreement shall be able to take part in the work of the Committee without voting rights for a period of six months after the entry into force of this Agreement.
- (e) The Secretary-General of the Council of the European Communities shall notify each of the contracting parties of the deposit of the notifications provided for in the paragraph a) and of the date of entry into force of this Agreement.
- (f) Within a period of 6 months after the entry into force other European States which took part in the Ministerial Conference held in Brussels on 22nd/23rd November 1971 may accede to the present Agreement. Instruments of accession shall be deposited with the Secretary General of the Council of the European Communities. The Agreement shall enter into force for each acceding party on the date of deposit of such instrument.

Article 7

This Agreement, drawn up in a single original in six languages, all texts being equally authentic, shall be deposited in the archives of the General Secretariat of the Council of the European Communities which shall transmit to each of the contracting parties a certified true copy.

Done at .....

at .....

Pour la Communauté Economique Européenne

Für die österreichische Bundesregierung

For the Government of the Republic of Finland

For the Government of the Kingdom of Norway

For the Government of the Kingdom of Sweden

Für den Schweizerischen Bundesrat



6

ANNEX A

RESEARCH PROGRAMME  
IN THE FIELD OF TREATMENT AND USE OF SEWAGE SLUDGE  
(concerted action)

The research covers the following topics:

Research topics	Division of research among contracting parties					
	CEE	Switzerland	Austria	Sweden	Norway	Finland
<b>1. Sludge stabilization and odour problems:</b>						
- Definition and determination of 'degree of stability' and relation to odour nuisance	X	X		X	X	
- Comparative evaluation of stabilization procedures	X	X	X	X	X	X
<b>2. Problems related to sludge dewatering:</b>						
- Research on water binding forces	X	X		X	X	
- Development and standardization of methods for the assessment of dewatering properties	X	X		X	X	
- Problems related to the use of flocculants	X	X		X		X
- Comparative evaluation of thickening and dewatering equipment	X	X		X	X	X
<b>3. Analytical problems related to sludge treatment and use:</b>						
- Characterization of pathogens and evaluation of disinfection procedures	X	X			X	X
- Characterization and determination of pollutants (heavy metals, persistent organic compounds) in sludge and development of standardized analytical method	X	X	X	X	X	
<b>4. Environmental problems related to sludge use:</b>						
- Special processing of sludge for agricultural use (e.g. composting) including the improvement of disinfection procedures and pollutant removal	X	X	X		X	X
- Transfer of pollutants to plants and harmful effects on vegetation	X	X		X	X	X
- Effects of long range sludge application on soil quality and ground water	X			X	X	X
- Optimum land use of sludge, including sludge from dephosphatation plants	X	X	X	X		X

TERMS OF REFERENCE AND COMPOSITION OF THE COMMUNITY - COST COORDINATION  
COMMITTEE ON THE TREATMENT AND USE OF SEWAGE SLUDGE

1. The Committee shall:
  - 1.1. contribute to the optimum execution of the programme by giving its opinion on all of its aspects;
  - 1.2. evaluate the results of the project and draw conclusions as to their application;
  - 1.3. ensure the exchange of information referred to in Article 5 (a);
  - 1.4. suggest guidelines to the project leader;
2. The Committee's reports and opinions shall be forwarded to the States.
3. The Committee shall be composed of one delegate from the Commission, as coordinator of the Community concerted action, one delegate from each participating Non-Member State, one delegate from each Member State representing its national programme and of the Project Leader. Each delegate may be accompanied by experts.

Provisions governing the financial arrangements for the Agreement on a concerted action project in the field of treatment and use of sewage sludge (COST 68 bis)

## METHOD OF FINANCING

### Article 1

These provisions lay down the financial procedures pursuant to Article 4 of the Agreement signed on..... on a concerted action project in the field of treatment and use of sewage sludge.

### Article 2

At the beginning of each financial year, a call for funds shall be issued by the Commission to each of the participating Non-Member States. Such calls for funds shall denominate the contribution of the Non-Member State in question both in European units of account and in the currency of the participating Non-Member State, the value of the unit of account being defined in the Financial Regulation applicable to the general budget of the European Communities and determined on the date of the call for funds. Each participating Non-Member State shall pay its contribution<sup>+</sup> to the Agreement at the beginning of each year and by 31 March at the latest. On any sum unpaid by that date, interest shall be charged at the rate of 6% per annum. However, such interest shall be chargeable only if payment is effected more than three months after the issue of a call for funds by the Commission.

### Article 3

The funds accruing from the contributions of participating Non-Member States shall be credited to the projects being entered in the statement of revenue of the budget of the Commission as receipts within the meaning of the second paragraph of Article 90 (4) of the Financial Regulation dated 21 December 1977 applicable to the general budget of the European Communities.

### Article 4

The time-table set out in Annex I shows the estimated schedule for the implementation of the Agreement.

### Article 5

The Financial Regulation of the Commission currently in force shall apply to the management of these appropriations; furthermore, the Commission shall ensure that such appropriations are managed in conformity with the rules of procedure for the implementation of the budget.

### Article 6

At the end of each financial year, a statement of appropriations for this project shall be prepared and transmitted to the participating Non-Member States for information.

<sup>+</sup>) This contribution shall amount to a total of 10.000 EUA, i.e. 5.000 EUA annually.

Provisional timetable of joint expenditure  
on the concerted action programme (in EUA)

1. Administrative (operating) expenditure  
(3-year estimates)

1978	1979	1980	TOTAL	of which
40,000	75,000	75,000	190,000	- 140,000 borne by the Community - 50,000 borne by the Participating Non-Member States.

2. Estimated breakdown of expenditure for 1979. Financing to be charged to appropriations under Item 3371: implementation of concerted action projects.

<u>Nature of expenditure</u>	
Secretarial staff	20,000
Contracts for experts	15,000
Administrative (operating) expenditure (costs of formal and other meetings, symposia, publications etc.	40,000
TOTAL:	<u>75,000</u>