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<p>**II</p>

RECOMMENDATION

of the Committee on Energy, Research and Technology

on the **COMMON POSITION** established by the Council with a view to the adoption of a decision on a specific programme of research and technological development in the field of information technology (1990-1994)

(C3-0000/91 - SYN 258)

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A Series: Reports - B Series: Motions for Resolutions, Oral Questions - C Series: Documents received from other Institutions (e.g. Consultations)

*	= Consultation procedure requiring a single reading	**II	= Cooperation procedure (second reading) which requires the votes of a majority of the current Members of Parliament for rejection or amendment
I	= Cooperation procedure (first reading)	*	= Parliamentary assent which requires the votes of a majority of the current Members of Parliament

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At its sitting of 12 December 1990 the European Parliament delivered its opinion at first reading on the Commission proposal for a Council decision on a specific programme on research and technological development in the field of information technology (1990-1994).

At the sitting of 15 May 1991 the President of Parliament announced that the common position had been received and referred to the Committee on Energy, Research and Technology as the committee responsible and to the Committee on Budgets and the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs and Industrial Policy for their opinions.

At its meeting of 23 May 1991 the committee considered the common position and the draft recommendation.

At the latter meeting it adopted the recommendation unanimously.

The following took part in the vote: Sälzer, acting chairman; Anger, vice-chairman; Samland, rapporteur (for Linkohr); Bettini, Breyer, Desama, Garcia Arias, Goedmakers (for Ford), Hervé, Pierros, Pompidou, Porrazzini, Regge, Robles Piquer, Schlee, Verwaerde and West.

This recommendation was tabled on 28 May 1991

The deadline for tabling amendments to the common position or proposals to reject it will appear on the draft agenda for the part-session at which the common position is to be considered.

A

RECOMMENDATION

(Cooperation procedure: second reading)
on the common position established by the Council
with a view to the adoption of a decision on
a specific programme of research and technological development
in the field of information technology (1990-1994)
(COM(90) 0153¹ and COM(90) 679).

The Committee on Energy, Research and Technology,

- having regard to the common position of the Council (C3-0212/91 - SYN 258),

Recommends that the European Parliament amend the common position as follows:

Common position of the Council

Amendments

(Amendment No. 1)
Recital 6a (new)

Whereas support for the international competitiveness of European industry through Community research and technological development programmes is linked with the Community's external relations policy based on the principle of 'the global equilibrium of opportunities' and that it is also in the light of this policy that the participation of European companies owned by persons from non-Community countries must be considered.

¹ OJ No. C 174, 16.7.1990, p. 1

B
EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

The present recommendation and attached amendment are both the result of very extensive and detailed collaboration between, on the one hand, the European Parliament and its Committee on Energy, Research and Technology and, on the other hand, the Commission and Council of Ministers.

The President of the European Parliament, the President of the Council and the President of the Commission have conducted political discussions on the horizontal questions connected with the specific research programmes on which the institutions were of differing opinions during the cooperation procedure.

The outcome of these tripartite talks was an undertaking by the Presidents of the three institutions to submit for approval by each individual institution the political agreement which is meant to enable the Council finally to adopt the programmes in question by the end of May 1991 at the latest.

The Presidents further stated their readiness to incorporate these components of their political agreement in all other specific research programmes that have not yet been the subject of a common position established by the Council.

Amendment No. 1 is, in the final analysis, the outcome of a comprehensive process of parliamentary deliberation and has after several modifications met with overwhelming support in the European Parliament. The aspect dealing with the approximate reciprocity of opportunities or, according to the actual wording, 'the global equilibrium of opportunities', reflects the views of the Commission and the political will of a large majority of elected representatives. It should be reiterated that the intention here is most definitely not distortion of competition, unfair protectionism, the erection of trade barriers or encouragement for otherwise non-competitive arrangements. A fair 'equilibrium of opportunities', which does not at present exist, will be made possible only by the above measure. Only on the basis of equal and comparable conditions can competition develop. This position is not only a political requirement which makes economic sense but is also fully in keeping with the letter and spirit of the Treaties (see note by Parliament's Legal Service dated 11 April 1991) (Notice to members No. 22/91 of 7 May 1991).

