



COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

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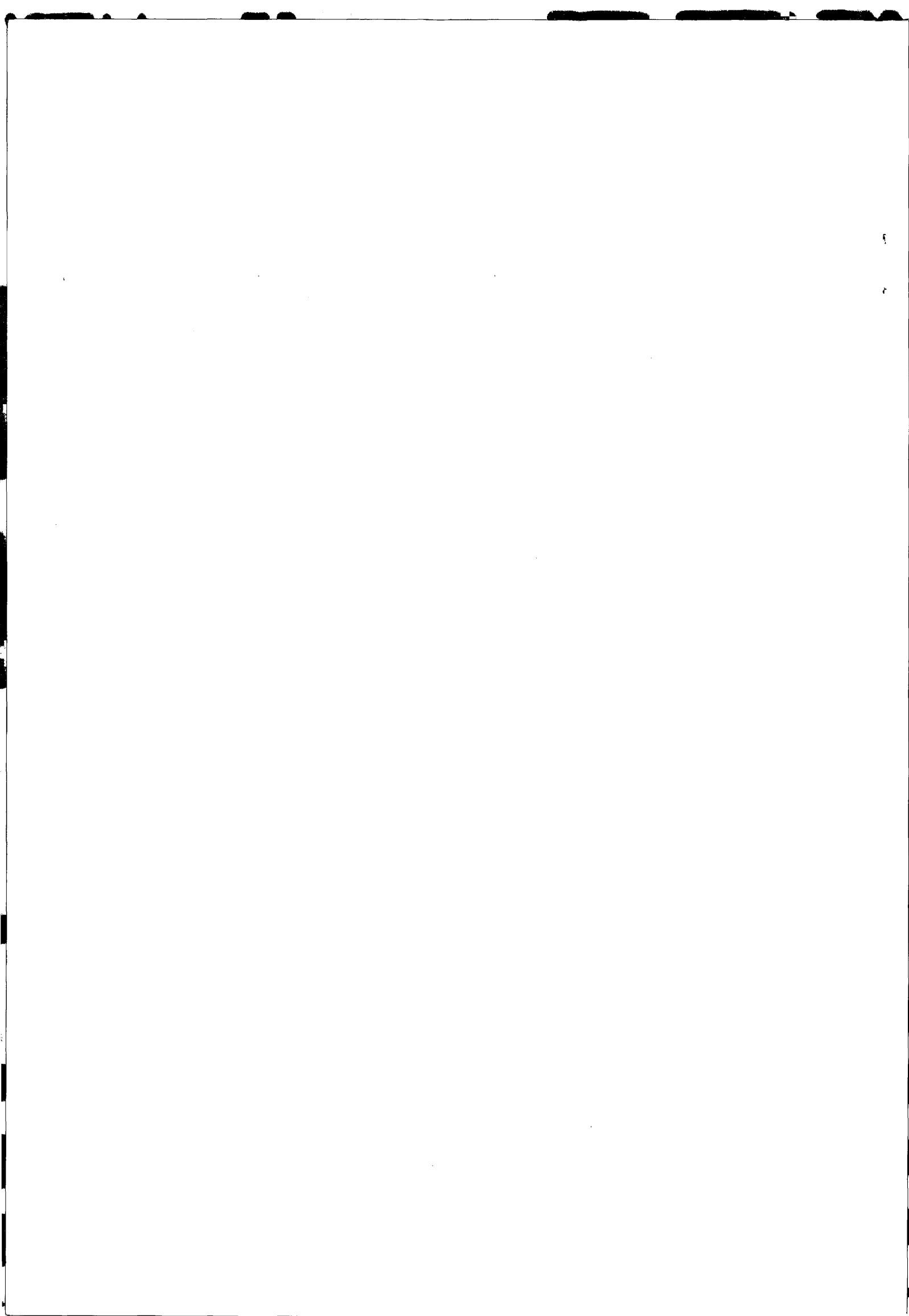
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COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION  
TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

pursuant to the second subparagraph of Article 189 b (2) of the EC-Treaty

**concerning the Council common position on the Decision adapting  
Decision No 1110/94/EC concerning the fourth framework  
programme of European Community activities in the field of  
research, technological development and demonstration (1994-98)  
following the accession to the European Union of the Republic of  
Austria, the Republic of Finland and the Kingdom of Sweden**



## COMMISSION COMMUNICATION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

**Subject:** Council common position on the Decision adapting Decision No 1110/94/EC concerning the fourth framework programme of European Community activities in the field of research, technological development and demonstration (1994-98) following the accession to the European Union of the Republic of Austria, the Republic of Finland and the Kingdom of Sweden

### 1. Background

In accordance with the co-decision procedure, the Commission submitted its proposal (COM(95)145 final)<sup>1</sup> to the European Parliament and the Council on 26 April 1995.

The European Parliament delivered its opinion on first reading on 12 July 1995.

The Economic and Social Committee adopted its position on 5 July 1995.

The Council adopted a common position on 30 November 1995.

### 2. Purpose of the Commission proposal

The Commission proposal concerns the adaptation of European Parliament and Council Decision No 1110/94/EC as a result of enlargement. To take account of the accession of the three new Member States it provides for a strictly linear adjustment to the overall amount assigned to the activities under the fourth RTD framework programme and its implementation through the specific programmes.

Together with this proposal, the Commission also submitted a proposal for a Council Decision adapting Decision 94/268/Euratom concerning the framework programme of Community activities in the field of research and training for the European Atomic Energy Community (1994-98) following the accession to the European Union of the Republic of Austria, the Republic of Finland and the Kingdom of Sweden.<sup>2</sup>

The adaptation proposed by the Commission to the amount deemed necessary for the activities under the Euratom framework programme is also based on a linear adjustment to the original amount. Although this proposal is not subject to the co-decision procedure Parliament has been consulted on it.

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<sup>1</sup> OJ C 142, 8.6.1995, p. 16.

<sup>2</sup> OJ C 142, 8.6.1995, p. 18.

### 3. Comments on the common position

#### 3.1 General

The common position provides that the overall amount for the fourth RTD framework programme should be increased by ECU 718 million allocated linearly between the four areas of activity, the linearity principle also applying to their implementation (i.e. to the specific programmes). Similarly, the amount deemed necessary for the Euratom framework programme would be increased by ECU 82 million.

#### 3.2 Action taken on the European Parliament's amendments on first reading

The first amendment concerning a slight change in the distribution of funds between the two halves of the period covered by the framework programme (1994-96 and 1997-98) was accepted as it takes account of the most recent budget forecasts for 1996.

With regard to the second amendment aimed at applying the same adjustment rate to the ECU 700 million financial supplement, the Council hit upon a compromise in the form of a declaration to which it has invited Parliament to subscribe. This declaration indicates that this Decision in no way prejudices the Decision to be taken with a view to increasing the maximum amount assigned to the fourth RTD framework programme. The same applies to the Decision concerning the increase in the amount assigned to the Euratom framework programme.

### 4. Conclusions

The common position adopted by the Council provides for an adjustment of the overall amount for the fourth framework programme (and of the amount deemed necessary for the Euratom framework programme) which is slightly less than the 7% proposed by the Commission. The Council common position makes it possible to maintain the Union's overall research effort at its current level and confirm the full participation of the three new Member States. The Commission can therefore accept the Council's unanimous compromise.

The overall effort is maintained compared with the situation in 1994, before enlargement, when the level of contribution of the three new Member States to the third RTD framework programme, as EEA members, amounted to 6.87%. This is the percentage agreed upon by the Council for research activities proper.

With regard to management and administration expenditure, the Commission itself proposed limiting the adjustment to a level well below 7% and even gave an undertaking not to exceed an average adjustment rate of 4%.

The Commission hopes that Parliament can accept the common position and rapidly conclude the second reading.