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**COMMISSION REQUESTS MORE RESOURCES FOR BIOTECHNOLOGY,
"RESEARCH-WORKERS' EUROPE" AND BRIE**

The Commission believe there is now a need to revise three recent research programmes, for various reasons of which one is the success with which they have met. A large number of proposals of a generally high quality have been submitted under each of these programmes, and the Commission has been unable to select all of them. One of the aims of revising the programmes would be to increase their budgets sufficiently to enable the Commission to include a number of projects of major scientific value which it has had to pass over initially.

In terms of content and because they are based on cooperation between countries, sectors and scientific disciplines, these programmes - BRITE, biotechnology research and the "stimulation plan" for research - are indicative of the more vigorous research policy which the Community hopes to be implementing soon. The review of these programmes gives an opportunity to integrate their aims and technical details even more closely with two of the major topics of the 1987-1991 framework programme: helping to make Community industry more competitive and speeding up the creation of a "research-workers' Europe".

The Commission has, accordingly, asked the Twelve Governments to revise the BRITE programme, the programme of biotechnology research and the plan to stimulate scientific and technical cooperation and interchange.

BRITE is the Community's programme of research in industrial technology; its start-up at the beginning of this year was highly promising. Its approach is to associate the private sector and universities systematically in work on applying new technologies (lasers, computer-aided design and manufacture) in the leading sectors of vehicle manufacture, the aircraft industry, chemicals and engineering.

The biotechnology research programme is a continuation and amplification of the programme of research in biomolecular engineering which has just been completed; it produced results of high quality (particularly in the genetic engineering of plants) and stimulated the appearance of a Community-wide network of biotechnology research.

The "stimulation plan" is an interdisciplinary programme designed to increase contacts between research workers in different European countries. It covers research in many advanced fields which are interdisciplinary in character such as optical computers, magnetic alloys and miniaturized batteries.

Both BRITE and the "stimulation plan" are planned to run for four years (1985-1988). At the moment, they have budgets of 125 million ECU and 60 million ECU respectively. The biotechnology research programme is planned to run for five years (1985-89) and currently has a budget of 55 million ECU.

Greater involvement of small business and the entry of Spain and Portugal

Another purpose of the review is to adapt the content of these programmes to changes which have taken place in several areas since they were first drawn up: progress in the state of the art in various fields, the appearance or development of new directions of research, etc. as well as the entry of Spain and Portugal into the Community and the consequent need to bring them into the programmes. The review will also make it possible to involve industry, which is showing growing interest in Community research, more closely in the biotechnology programme and the "stimulation plan" and to improve access to BRITE for small and medium-sized business.

The three communications recently adopted by the Commission are intended to open initial discussions about the content of the revised programmes. Once the Commission has drafted its formal proposals for the 1987-91 framework programme, it will be forwarding draft decisions on the revised programmes, with detailed figures, to the Council and to Parliament.