

2398. Council - RESEARCH

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PRESS RELEASE

Subject :

2398th Council meeting

- RESEARCH -

Brussels, 10 December 2001

President : **Mr François-Xavier DE DONNEA**
Minister-President of the Brussels Capital
Regional Government, with responsibility for
Local Authorities, Regional Planning, Monuments and
Sites, Urban Regeneration and
Scientific Research, of the Kingdom of Belgium

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For further information call 02 285 60 83; 02 285 81 11.

PARTICIPANTS

The Governments of the Member States and the European Commission were represented as follows:

Belgium :

François-Xavier DE DONNEA

Minister-President of the Brussels Capital

Regional Government, with responsibility for

Local Authorities, Regional Planning, Monuments and Sites, Urban Regeneration and

Scientific Research

Minister for Science Policy

Yvan ILIEFF

Denmark :

Helge SANDER

Minister for Science, Technology and Development

Germany :

Edelgard BULMAHN

Federal Minister for Education and Research

Greece :

Apostolos-Athanasios TSOCHATZOPOULOS

Minister for Development

Spain :

Ana María BIRULÉS Y BERTRÁN

Ramón MARIMÓN SUÑOL

Minister for Science and Technology

State Secretary for Science and Technology Policy

France :

Roger-Gérard SCHWARTZENBERG

Minister for Research

Ireland :

Noel TREACY

Minister of State at the Department of Education and Science and at the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment (with special responsibility for Science and Technology)

Italy :

Letizia MORATTI

Guido POSSA

Minister for Education, the Universities and Research

Deputy Minister for Education, the Universities and Research

Luxembourg :

Erna HENNICOT-SCHOEPGES

Minister for Culture, Higher Education and Research, Minister for Public Works

Netherlands :

Loek HERMANS

Minister for Education, Cultural Affairs and Science

Austria :

Elisabeth GEHRER

Federal Minister for Education, Science and Culture

Portugal :

José Mariano GAGO

Minister for Science and Technology

Finland :

Sinikka MÖNKÄRE

Minister for Trade and Industry

Sweden :

Agneta BLADH

State Secretary to the Minister for Education

United Kingdom :

David SAINSBURY

Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department of Trade and Industry (Minister for Science)

* * *

Commission :

Philippe BUSQUIN

Member

RESEARCH FRAMEWORK PROGRAMMES (EC- EURATOM) 2002-2006 AIMED AT CONTRIBUTING TOWARDS THE CREATION OF THE EUROPEAN RESEARCH AREA

The Council reached a political agreement on the 6th Research Framework Programmes – EC and Euratom – on the basis of Presidency compromise texts as amended during the debate, with the German delegation abstaining on the part of the agreement concerning the Euratom programme.

The Council's agreement relates specifically to draft decisions concerning:

- the 6th Framework Programme of the European Community for research, technological development and demonstration activities, contributing to the creation of the European Research Area and to innovation (2002-2006);
- the 6th Framework Programme of the European Atomic Energy Community (EURATOM) for research and training activities, also contributing to the creation of the European Research Area (2002-2006).

This agreement contains the basis for compromise on a number of questions of principle on which the Council concentrated its discussions, i.e.:

- the relative weight to be accorded to the instruments provided for to implement the thematic priorities of the Framework Programme (Networks of Excellence, Integrated Projects, Specific Targeted Projects, Coordinated Actions);
- the overall budget for the two programmes and the breakdown of appropriations between the different research projects (see tables below);
- controlled thermonuclear fusion under the EURATOM Framework Programme and especially its budgetary aspects;
- fission under the EURATOM Framework Programme and in particular innovative concepts;
- research infrastructures.

The overall budget allocated to the two programmes amounts to EUR 17 500 million, of which EUR 16 270 million is for the EC programme and EUR 1 230 million for the EURATOM programme.

The common position on the EC programme will be adopted at a forthcoming Council meeting, after finalisation of the text, and subsequently forwarded to the European Parliament for the second reading under the co-decision procedure. The EURATOM programme will be finalised in preparation for its formal adoption at a later stage, together with the EC Programme.

EC Framework Programme budget: allocation of funds

	EUR million
1. Focussing and integrating Community research	13 285
1.1 Thematic priorities:(1)	11 205
1.1.1 Genomics and biotechnology for health	2 200
○ Advanced genomics and its applications for health	1 150
○ Combating major diseases	1 050
1.1.2 Information society technologies(2)	3 600
1.1.3 Nanotechnologies and nanosciences, knowledge-based multifunctional materials and new production processes and device	1 300
1.1.4 Aeronautics and space	1 075
1.1.5 Food quality and safety	685
1.1.6 Sustainable development, global change and ecosystems	2 120
○ Sustainable energy systems	810
○ Sustainable surface transport	610
○ Global change and ecosystems	700
1.1.7 Citizens and governance in a knowledge-based society	225
1.2 Specific activities covering a wider field of research	1 320
1.2.1 Supporting policies and anticipating scientific and technological needs	570
1.2.2 Horizontal research activities involving SMEs	450
1.2.3 Specific measures in support of international cooperation	300
1.3 Non-nuclear activities of the Joint Research Centre	760
2. Structuring the European Research Area	2 655
2.1 Research and innovation	300
2.2 Human resources	1 630
2.3 Research infrastructures(3)	665
2.4 Science and society	60
3. Strengthening the foundations of the European Research Area	3 30
3.1 Support for the coordination of activities	280
3.2 Support for the coherent development of policies	50
TOTAL	16 270

EURATOM Framework Programme budget: allocation of funds

	EUR million
1. Priority thematic areas of research	8 9 0
1.1 Controlled thermonuclear fusion	750
1.2 Management of radioactive waste	90
1.3 Radiation protection	50
2. Other activities in the field of nuclear technologies and safety	5 0
3. Nuclear activities of the Joint Research Centre (JRC)	2 9 0
TOTAL	1 230

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EUROPEAN RESEARCH AREA

The Council adopted the Resolution set out below concerning the mobility strategy for researchers within the European Research Area.

"THE COUNCIL:

1. RECALLING the importance which Heads of State and Government at recent European Councils held at Lisbon, Nice and Stockholm have attached to increased professional and vocational mobility for men and women throughout the European Union;
2. RECALLING the creation of ERA which was endorsed by the Heads of State and Government at the Lisbon European Council; and in this context, RECALLING the need to take steps to remove obstacles to the mobility of researchers in Europe by 2002 and to attract and retain high quality research talent in Europe;
3. RECALLING the Council Resolutions of the 15 June 2000 and the 16 November 2000 in respect of ERA(4) which invited the Member States and the Commission to cooperate to identify and subsequently to remove obstacles to the mobility of researchers and which welcomed the importance attached to human resources in the creation of ERA and to fostering the mobility of researchers;
4. REAFFIRMS the importance of researchers' mobility in making a reality of ERA; and REITERATES its intention to eliminate persistent obstacles to the mobility of researchers, which are multifaceted in nature and include those of a cultural, social, administrative, legal and regulatory nature;
5. WELCOMES the cooperation established between Member States and the Commission which has led to a first analysis of the major obstacles to researcher mobility;

6. WELCOMES the general approach of the Commission set out in its communication for

"A Mobility Strategy for ERA" and in particular, EMPHASISES the need to:

- consider actions to be taken to create a favourable environment for mobility and for the pursuit of scientific excellence by this means;
- take account of the particular situation of researchers in the context of mobility in general;
- stress the importance given to human resources and mobility in the context of the 6th EC Research Framework Programme.

7. ENDORSES efforts to:

- improve information on mobility to researchers, in particular by the creation of a dedicated internet portal, a network of mobility centres, where appropriate building on existing structures, and by the better dissemination of vacancies;
- examine qualitative issues in respect of, for example, exchanges of best practice and benchmarking;

8. INVITES the Commission:

- to give due emphasis to the importance of the mobility of researchers in its "Mobility Action Plan" which will be presented to the European Council in Spring 2002 on developing and opening up new European labour markets; as well as, inter alia, to promote gender equality and enhance the contribution of young scientists to research;
- to ensure that the Candidate Countries are fully associated with the definition and execution of actions in favour of mobility;
- to report annually on the progress achieved in undertaking its strategy in favour of mobility for researchers."

The Council also took note of the presentation by Commissioner BUSQUIN of the Commission's Science and Society Action Plan. The Council concluded that the Action Plan would be examined in greater depth by the Council's competent bodies during the Spanish Presidency.

In the context of the Science and Society Action Plan, the Belgian Presidency submitted its proposal concerning the need to increase the cooperation of the public media in order to make the general public more aware of scientific issues and scientific research. Such cooperation could increase the

relevance and accessibility of science programmes. This initiative was welcomed by the Commission and will be examined by CREST (Scientific and Technical Research Committee) at a later occasion.

"TOWARDS A EUROPEAN SPACE POLICY"

The Council took note of the presentation by Commissioner BUSQUIN of the communication on the report by the Joint Task Force of the Commission and the European Space Agency, and agreed to examine the Commission's communication in greater depth during the first quarter of 2002.

At the close of the discussion, the President's conclusions were as follows:

"The Council:

- WELCOMES the presentation of the Commission communication "Towards a European Space policy";
- WELCOMES the progress achieved in the common efforts of the EC and ESA with a view to the implementation of the European Space strategy, as reflected in the Joint Task Force report, and NOTES that the Task Force, supported as appropriate by the Joint Space Strategy Advisory Group (JSSAG), is to continue its activities into 2002;
- NOTING the recommendations for future EC-ESA cooperation contained in the ESA Resolution of 15 November 2001 :

INVITES the Commission to explore the possibilities of elaborating a Framework agreement between the European Community and ESA and to come forward with a proposal for a negotiating mandate as soon as possible;

AGREES that an informal meeting of the Council of the European Union and of the Council of the European Space Agency at ministerial level should take place before the end of 2002, to discuss issues related to the development of the European space policy."

OTHER BUSINESS

• *LIFE SCIENCES AND BIOTECHNOLOGY*

The Commission took stock of the preparation of its communication on life sciences and biotechnology, with a view to the Barcelona European Council.

ITEMS APPROVED WITHOUT DEBATE

The documents whose references are given are available on the Council's Internet site <http://ue.eu.int>. Acts adopted with statements for the Council minutes which may be released to the public are indicated by an asterisk; these statements may be obtained by following the procedure indicated above or from the Press Office.)

FISHERIES

Agreement with Guinea-Bissau

The Council adopted a Decision on the conclusion of the Agreement concerning the provisional application of the Protocol establishing, for the period 16 June 2001 to 15 June 2006, the fishing opportunities and the compensation provided for in the Agreement between the European Economic Community and the Government of the Republic of Guinea-Bissau on fishing off the coast of Guinea-Bissau (13026/01).

INTERNAL MARKET: INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

Protection of the rights of broadcasting organisations

The Council adopted a Decision authorising the Commission to conduct negotiations on behalf of the European Community, within the Standing Committee on Copyright and Related Rights of the World Intellectual Property Organisation, to examine the possibility of a new instrument to protect the rights of broadcasting organisations.

Footnotes:

(1) Of which at least 15% for SMEs.

(2) Including up to 100 million for further development of Géant and GRID.

(3) Including up to 200 million for further development of Géant and GRID.

(4) OJ C 205/1, 19.7.2000, p. 1.

OJ C 374/1, 28.12.2000, p. 1.

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