

COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

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REFINEMENT OF THE PROCESS FOR REACHING A DECISION OF THE JRC

(Communication from the Commission to the Council)
UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH

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CORRIGENDUM

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Corrigendum No. 1 applied to the Danish version only

CORRIGENDUM No 2
to Document COM(83)111 final

(all languages)

Page 3, Section 3(a), third paragraph to read:

"If a favourable opinion is delivered, the Commission will decide on the adaptation of the programme.

In the absence of a favourable opinion, the Commission may refer the draft to the Council.

For the purpose of this role, the voting procedure within the Council of"

COM 111

REFINEMENT OF THE PROCESS FOR REACHING A DECISION OF THE JRC1. The JRC at the heart of Community research

The main aim of this document is to make the process for taking a decision on the JRC easier so as to bring before the Council only those decisions which would have been taken up to ministerial level in a national context.

The improvement of the decision-making process is proposed at two levels : that of Community research strategy and that of the management of the JRC as a whole.

The refinement that the Commission is proposing on the Community research strategy level is described in another document entitled "Structures and Procedures". This refinement mainly takes the form of substantial reduction in the number of advisory bodies and the creation of a Senior Scientific and Technical Policy Committee (HSTC) which will comment for the attention of the Council on decisions connected with actions designed to implement the Framework Programme.

The Community research system is organized into "action programmes" which, for one scientific or technical area comprises all the forms of research management : Direct Action, Shared Cost, Concerted Action etc...

Each of these programmes is decided on as an entity by the Council on the basis of comments by the HSTC and its execution is undertaken by the Commission with the assistance of an Advisory Committee. The JRC, for its part, plays its role in the functioning of this system for each of its activities is one part of "an Action-Programme".

This situation is not affected by the proposals in the document which deals exclusively with decisions on the management of the JRC as a whole at the highest level.

To ensure the preparation and execution of Council decisions relating to the management of JRC affairs, the Commission proposes to have the assistance of a "JRC Council of Administration".

2. The role of the Council of the European Communities

In accordance with the provisions of the Treaty, the decision on a multiannual programme is taken by the Council of the European Communities after an opinion has been expressed by the European Parliament. This decision must comprise the following elements :

- a) An indication :
 - i) of the areas of research in which the programme activities will be located,
 - ii) of proportions relating to the activities in the various areas;
- b) A definition of the average level of activity during the programme, an integral part of which is the approved staff complement and the average annual financial amount in constant money terms.

This annual amount will be reassessed each year to take account of Council decisions on pay and other economic variables.

Each year the Parliament and the Council will, as part of the budget procedure, approve the amount of finance considered necessary for the implementation of the JRC programme and the staff complement for the year under consideration.

To this end, they will base their decision on an annual management report drawn up by the Commission with the aid of the JRC Council of Administration.

3. Role of the JRC Council of Administration

The JRC Council of Administration has a dual role :

- a) to play a part in the decision-making process relating to the adaptation of the programme in the context of the Council decision.

In this case, the Commission will submit a draft to the Council of Administration.

The latter will give its opinion within one month of the draft being presented to it.

Should a favourable opinion be expressed, the Commission will take a decision on adapting the programme.

In the absence of a favourable opinion, the draft may be deferred by the Commission to the Council which must act within two months. If the Council fails to take a decision within this time, the Commission will take the decision on adapting the programme.

In playing this role, the voting procedure within the Council of Administration must include the following elements :

- a simple majority for the scientific members ;
- a qualified majority within the meaning of Article 148(2) of the EEC Treaty and Article 118(2) of the EAEC Treaty for members nominated by the Member States.

- b) to assist the Commission in its task of managing the JRC. This relates to :

- the drawing up of proposals relating to new programmes and their integration in the Community research strategy (outline programme and action programmes) ;

- the establishment each year of a staff complement for the JRC and a budget therefor ;
- the implementation of the research and development programmes under way and the distribution of the resources available ;
- the drafting of an annual management report ;
- internal evaluation of the results of the research at the half-way stage.

4. Composition of the JRC Council of Administration

The JRC Council of Administration will be composed of 21 members (the Chairman and two members per Member State). Each Member State shall nominate one member. The Commission will nominate the Chairman and the ten members from the scientific community.

The Commission proposes to nominate at once the members of the Governing Board duly constituted so as to have one member per Member State and to entrust the chairmanship of the Council of Administration to Sir John Adams, Chairman of the current Governing Board.

Half the members of the Council of Administration in each category shall be replaced after each phase of the JRC multiannual programme, the term of office of the chairman being valid for the duration of the programme.

5. Transitory measures

Since the Council of Administration of the JRC can only be constituted over the next few months, it is proposed that for 1983 the Council should decide to carry out its tasks in such a way that the 1984-1987 programme shall be the subject of a formal decision to be taken at the latest during the month of November 1983 and in any case before the 2nd reading of the 1984 budget.

This timetable implies that the Council of Administration is created quickly so as to aid the Commission in the final formulation of R & D proposals for the period 1984-1987.