

# COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

COM(80) 357 final

Brussels, 27th June 1980

PROPOSAL FOR A COUNCIL DECISION  
AMENDING DECISION 78/384/EEC ADOPTING A MULTIANNUAL  
RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME FOR THE  
EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY IN THE FIELD  
OF PAPER AND BOARD RECYCLING  
(INDIRECT ACTION)

---

(presented by the Commission to the Council)

COM(80) 357 final

## COMMISSION COMMUNICATION TO THE COUNCIL

Proposal to extend the duration of the multiannual research and development programme (1978-1980) for the European Economic Community in the field of paper and board recycling (indirect action), without increasing the upper limit of expenditure commitment.

---

On 17 April 1978 the Council adopted a research and development programme for the European Economic Community in the field of paper and board recycling. The programme - which runs for three years from 1 January 1978 and has an upper limit of expenditure commitment of 2.9 million EUA - is due to end on 31 December 1980 (OJ N° L 107/12 of 21.4.78).

Under this decision, the Commission is responsible for awarding contracts to carry out research and development projects deserving of Community support, which aim at recycling waste paper more intensively; this will be done by upgrading the main qualities of waste paper, leading to better use of the various grades, this in turn ensuring better matching of the raw materials so obtained to the products to be made therefrom.

Four main research topics have been adopted:

Research Topic I: characterisation of reclaimed fibres, their upgrading by various processes and the effects of multiple fibre recycling.

Research Topic II: elimination of the detrimental effect of contaminants in waste paper, including the dispersion of thermo-plastic contaminants.

Research Topic III: de-inking, including the relationship between different types of ink and de-inking, and the treatment of effluent from waste-paper recycling plants.

Research Topic IV: Use of urban fibres, including technological characterisation of fibres in solid urban waste, and health problems caused by the use of recycled fibres.

Following this Decision, on 18 May 1978 the Commission issued a "call for tenders" (an invitation to submit proposals) to carry out this programme (OJ N° C 115/3 of 18.5.78). Proposals had to be submitted by 15 July 1978.

The Commission examined the proposals submitted for each of the four topics very thoroughly, and made its selection with the help of the Advisory Committee on the Management of the "Environment and Resources" Programme, which met for this purpose on 27 October 1978.

The majority of the projects awarded contracts (14 out of 25 that were accepted) could not be started until January 1979. Some of them will be spread over more than two years. Several projects, based on proposals which had to be revised, could not be started until later.

Most of the final results from these projects will not therefore be available before 31 December 1980 and it seems appropriate to make a general review to highlight the results which correspond to the programme's objectives, with a view to making them widely known.

Consequently, the Commission thinks that it would be wise to extend the current programme by one year without increasing the upper limit of expenditure commitments, and requests the Council to adopt the Decision annexed hereto.

ANNEX

PROPOSAL FOR A COUNCIL DECISION AMENDING DECISION 78/384/EEC ADOPTING  
A MULTIANNUAL RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME FOR THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC  
COMMUNITY IN THE FIELD OF PAPER AND BOARD RECYCLING (indirect action)

---

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community,  
and in particular Article 235 thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the Commission,

Having regard to the Opinion of the European Parliament,

Whereas Council Decision 78/384/EEC of 17 April 1978<sup>1</sup> adopted a research  
and development programme for the European Economic Community in the  
field of paper and board recycling (indirect action);

Whereas, since the programme could not be implemented until the end of 1978,  
it is necessary to extend it by one year in order to complete  
the research projects and to assess the results; whereas the abovementioned  
Council Decision should therefore be amended,

Whereas the Scientific and Technical Research Committee (CREST) has given  
its opinion on the proposal from the Commission;

---

<sup>1</sup> OJ No L 107, 21.4.1978, p.12.

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Sole Article

Article 1 of Decision 78/384/EEC shall be replaced by the following:

"Article 1

For a period of four years from 1 January 1978 the Community shall carry out a research and development programme in the field of paper and board recycling as described in the Annex."

Done at Brussels

For the Council

The President