

COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

COM(84) 514 final

Brussels, 25 September 1984

Proposal for a COUNCIL DECISION

on the conclusion of a Community-COST
Concertation Agreement between the EEC and
some Third States participating in European Cooperation
in the field of Scientific and Technical Research
(COST) on five concerted action projects in the
field of environment

(submitted to the Council by the Commission)

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COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE COUNCIL

SUBJECT : Proposal for a Council Decision on the conclusion of a Community-COST Concertation Agreement between the EEC and some Third States participating in European Cooperation in the field of Scientific and Technical Research (COST) on five concerted action projects in the field of environment.

By its decision 81/213/EEC of 3 March 1981, the Council
adopted a sectoral research and development programme in the field of environment (environmental protection and climatology) - indirect and concerted actions (1981-1985).

Article 8 of this Decision provides for the conclusion of agreements between the Community and Third States in particular those involved in European Cooperation in the field of Scientific and Technical Research (COST) with a view to associating them wholly or partly with this programme.

Pursuant to this provision, three Community-COST Concertation Agreements on three concerted action projects in the field of physico-chemical behaviour of atmospheric pollutants (COST project 61 a bis), analysis of organic micropollutants in water (COST Project 64 b bis) and treatment and use of servage sludge (COST Project 68 ter) were concluded between the Community and some above mentioned Third States in 1979 and 1981.

These Agreements are now expired.

By its Decision 84/139/EEC of 1 March 1984, the Council
adopted the revision of the programme adopted by its Decision 81/213/EEC; this Decision includes five concerted action projects on 1) physico-chemical behaviour of atmospheric pollutants 2) organic micropollutants in aquatic environment 3) treatment and use of organic sludges and liquid agricultural wastes 4) benthic coastal ecosystems and 5) air pollution effects on terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems.

As some Third COST States expressed their interest to participate in these concerted action projects, the Commission, pursuant to the above mentioned provision, entered into negotiation with these Third States.

Negotiations have led to the drafting of the Agreement which is annexed to the attached draft Council Decision.

This Agreement lays down that :

- a Community-COST Concertation Committee for each project will be set up
- Concertation between the Community projects and the corresponding programmes of Third States will be effected through this Committee, secretarial services for which will be provided by the Commission
- financial contribution of each Third States to each of the concerted action projects in which it participates amounts to one-tenth of the Community contribution to the project i.e. 26,000 ECU for each project and for the duration of the project.

The following Third States are willing to participate in one or more projects : Austria, Finland, Norway, Portugal, Sweden and Switzerland.

The Commission hereby requests the Council to adopt the attached draft Decision.

PROPOSAL FOR A
COUNCIL DECISION ON THE CONCLUSION OF A COMMUNITY-COST CONCERTATION
AGREEMENT ON FIVE CONCERTED ACTION PROJECTS IN THE FIELD OF ENVIRONMENT.

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community,

Having regard to Council Decision 81/213/EEC of 3 March 1981 adopting a sectoral research and development programme in the field of environment (environmental protection and climatology) - indirect and concerted actions - (1981 to 1985) (1) as revised by Decision 84/139/EEC (2), and in particular Article 7 thereof,

Having regard to the proposal by the Commission,

Whereas, pursuant to Article 8 (2) of Decision 81/213/EEC, the Commission has negotiated an Agreement with some Third States participating in European Cooperation in the field of Scientific and Technical Research (COST) with a view to associating them wholly or partly with this programme;

Whereas this Agreement should be approved,

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS :

(1) OJ N° L 101, 11.4.1981, p. 1

(2) OJ N° L 71, 14.3.1984, p. 13.

ARTICLE 1

The Community-COST Concertation Agreement on five concerted action projects in the field of environment is hereby approved on behalf of the Community.

The text of the Agreement is attached hereto.

ARTICLE 2

The President of the Council is hereby authorized to designate the persons empowered to sign the Agreement in order to bind the Community.

Done at Brussels,

For the Council,
The President

DRAFT AGREEMENT

COMMUNITY-COST CONCERTATION AGREEMENT
ON FIVE CONCERTED ACTION PROJECTS
IN THE FIELD OF ENVIRONMENT

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THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY, hereinafter referred to as "the Community",

THE SIGNATORY STATES TO THIS AGREEMENT, hereinafter referred to as "the participating non-member States",

WHEREAS a European Cooperation in the field of environment is likely to contribute effectively to the reduction of environmental pollution and to a more economic use of natural resources;

WHEREAS a Community-Cost concertation agreement on a concerted action project on physico-chemical behaviour of atmospheric pollutants (Cost Project 61 a bis) was concluded between the Community, Austria, Sweden, Switzerland and Yugoslavia on 27 March 1980 and expired on 31 December 1983;

WHEREAS a Community-Cost concertation agreement on a concerted action project on analysis of organic micropollutants in water (COST Project 64 b bis) was concluded between the Community; Spain, Norway, Portugal, Sweden, Switzerland and Yugoslavia on 27 March 1980 and expired on 31 December 1983;

WHEREAS a Community-Cost concertation agreement on a concerted action project on treatment and use of sewage sludge (COST Project 68 ter) was concluded between the Community, Austria, Finland, Norway, Sweden and Switzerland on 16 February 1982 and expired on 31 December 1983;

WHEREAS a Memorandum of Understanding on a European research project on Benthic Coastal Ecology (COST Project 47), carried out in the framework of the European Cooperation in the field of Scientific and Technical Research (COST) was signed by the Community, Belgium, Denmark, the Federal Republic of Germany, France, Ireland, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, Spain, Norway, Portugal and Sweden on 5 April 1979 and expired on 4 April 1984;

WHEREAS the above-mentioned concerted action projects have produced very encouraging results;

WHEREAS by its Decision of 3 March 1981 the Council of the European Communities adopted a sectoral research and development programme in the field of environment (environmental protection and climatology) - indirect and concerted actions - (1981 to 1985);

WHEREAS by its Decision of 1 March 1984 the Council of the European Communities adopted the revision of the programme adopted by its Decision of 3 March 1981 and this revision includes five concerted action projects respectively on physico-chemical behaviour of atmospheric pollutants, hereinafter referred to as "COST Project 611", on organic micropollutants in aquatic environment, hereinafter referred to as "COST Project 641" treatment and use of organic sludges and liquid agricultural wastes, hereinafter referred to as "COST Project 681" benthic coastal ecosystems, hereinafter referred to as "COST Project 647", air pollution effects on terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems, hereinafter referred to as "COST Project 612";

WHEREAS the Member States of the Community and the participating non-member States, hereinafter referred to as "the States", intend, subject to the rules and procedures applicable to their national programmes, to carry out the research described in Annex A and are prepared to integrate such research into a process of concertation which they consider will be of mutual benefit;

WHEREAS the implementation of the research covered by the concerted action projects will require a financial contribution of approximately 60 million ECU from the States;

HAVE AGREED AS FOLLOWS :

ARTICLE 1

The Community and the participating non-member States, hereinafter referred to as "the Contracting Parties", shall participate for a period extending until 31 December 1985 in one or more of the following concerted action projects : COST Project 611, COST Project 641, COST Project 681, COST Project 647, COST Project 612.

These projects shall consist in concertation between the Community concerted action programmes and the corresponding programmes of the participating non-member States. Research topics covered by this Agreement are listed in Annex A.

The States shall remain entirely responsible for the research carried out by their national institutions or bodies.

ARTICLE 2

Concertation between the Contracting Parties shall be effected through Community-COST Concertation Committees, one for each project, hereinafter referred to as "the Committees".

The Committees shall draw up their rules of procedure. Their Secretariats will be provided by the Commission of the European Communities, hereinafter referred to as "the Commission".

The terms of reference and the composition of these Committees are defined in Annex B.

ARTICLE 3

In order to ensure optimum efficiency in the execution of these concerted actions projects, project leaders may be appointed by the Commission in agreement with the delegates of the participating non-member States on the Committee.

ARTICLE 4

The estimated financial contributions by the Contracting Parties to the co-ordination costs for the period referred to in the first paragraph of Article 1 shall be :

COST Project 611 : 260,000 ECU from the Community
26,000 ECU from each participating
non-member State

COST Project 641 : 260,000 ECU from the Community
26,000 ECU from each participating
non-member State

COST Project 681 : 260,000 ECU from the Community
26,000 ECU from each participating
non-member State

COST Project 647 : 260,000 ECU from the Community
26,000 ECU from each participating
non-member State

COST Project 612 : 260,000 ECU from the Community
26,000 ECU from each participating
non-member State.

The ECU is that defined by the Financial Regulation in force applicable to the general budget of the European Communities and by the financial arrangements adopted pursuant thereto.

The rules governing the financing of the Agreement are set out in Annex C.

ARTICLE 5

1. Through the Committees, the States shall exchange regularly all useful information resulting from the execution of the research covered by the concerted action projects. They shall also endeavour to provide information on similar research planned or carried out by other bodies. Any information shall be treated as confidential if the State which provides it so requests.

2. After having consulted the Committees, the Commission shall prepare annual progress reports on the basis of the information supplied and shall forward them to the States.

3. At the end of the concertation period, the Commission shall, after having consulted the Committees, forward to the States the general reports on the execution and results of the projects. These reports shall be published by the Commission not later than six months after they have been forwarded, unless a State objects. In that case the reports shall be treated as confidential and shall be forwarded, on request and with the agreement of the Committee, solely to the institutions and undertakings whose research or production activities justify access to knowledge resulting from the performance of the research covered by the concerted action projects.

ARTICLE 6

1. This Agreement shall be open for signature by the Community and by the non-member States which took part in the Ministerial conference held in Brussels on 22 and 23 November 1971.

2. As a condition precedent to its participation in the concerted action projects defined in Article 1, each of the Contracting Parties shall, when signing this Agreement, have notified the Secretary General of the Council of the European Communities of the concerted action projects in which it intends to participate and, after signing this Agreement, have notified

the Secretary General of the Council of the European Communities not later than 30 of June 1985 of the completion of the procedures necessary under its internal provisions for the implementation of this Agreement.

3. For the Contracting Parties which transmit the latter notification provided for in paragraph 2, this Agreement shall come into force on the first day of the month following that in which the Community and at least one of the participating non-member States transmitted these notifications.

For those Contracting Parties which transmit the notification after the entry into force of this Agreement, it shall come into force on the first day of the second month following the month in which the notification was transmitted.

Contracting Parties which have not transmitted this notification when this Agreement comes into force shall be able to take part in the work of the Committee without voting rights until 30 of June 1985.

4. The Secretary-General of the Council of the European Communities shall inform each of the Contracting Parties of the notifications provided for in paragraph 2 and of the date of entry into force of this Agreement.

ARTICLE 7

This Agreement shall apply, on the one hand, to the territories in which the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community is applied and under the conditions laid down in that Treaty and, on the other hand, to the territories of the participating non-member States.

ARTICLE 8

This Agreement, drawn up in a single original in the Danish, Dutch, English, French, German, Greek and Italian languages, each text being equally authentic, shall be deposited in the archives of the General Secretariat of the Council of the European Communities which shall transmit a certified copy to each of the Contracting Parties.

ANNEX A

RESEARCH COVERED BY AGREEMENT

COST Project 611 - Physico-chemical behaviour of atmospheric pollutants

- (a) Improvement of standardization of analytical methods, especially for NO_x , hydrocarbons and photochemical oxidants.
- (b) Elucidation of mechanisms and rate constants of the reactions between atmospheric pollutants and of their reactions with natural constituents of the atmosphere, in particular in the aqueous state, including: oxidation and degradation chemistry of selected atmospheric pollutants in fresh and sea water, reactions with soil constituents, and the investigation of catalytic processes in cloud and rainwater chemistry.
- (c) Investigation of the physico-chemical processes leading to the formation of particles, characterization of the chemical and physical nature of very fine aerosols, and determination of the chemical composition of aerosols.
- (d) Identification and quantification of sources and sinks of various pollutants, especially for nitrogen oxides.
- (e) Investigation of phenomena leading to 'acid deposition' with particular emphasis on:
 - conversion, transport and deposition (dry and wet) of SO_2 , NO_x and aerosol particles,
 - analysis of precipitation chemistry data for acidity trends,
 - NO_x chemistry in cloud droplets and chemical composition of cloud and rain water,
 - dry deposition of NO_x and HNO_3 ,
 - the role of oxidizing agents like OH , HO_2 , H_2O_2 ,
 - physico-chemical conversion of air pollutants after deposition, considering water bodies and soil,
 - analytical techniques for the measurement of ammonia, nitric acid and hydrogen peroxide in both gas and liquid phase at low concentrations,
 - analytical methods for the determination of acidity of aerosols.
- (f) Modelling of the diffusion of heavy gases (chlorine, phosgene, hydrocarbons, solvents) after accidental release, including development of three-dimensional models and testing in wind tunnels and under field conditions.
- (g) Elaboration of test protocols which enable abiotic degradability of chemicals to be predicted, in particular for persistent compounds.

COST Project 641 - Organic micropollutants in the aquatic environment

- (a) Analytical methodologies and data treatment:
 - basic analytical techniques, including sampling and sample treatment, gas chromatography, high-pressure liquid chromatography, mass spectrometry,
 - specific analytical problems, in particular analysis of selected classes of compounds, such as those likely to be regulated by Directive 76/464/EEC, chlorinated paraffins, tensides, optical brighteners and metal-organic compounds,
 - collection and treatment of analytical data.

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- (b) Physical/chemical behaviour of organic micropollutants in the aquatic environment :
 - distribution and transport mechanisms,
 - structure/activity relationships,
 - bioavailability and bioaccumulation.
 - (c) Transformation reactions in the aquatic environment :
 - chemical and photochemical reactions,
 - biological transformations.
 - (d) Behaviour and transformation of organic micropollutants in water treatment processes :
 - infiltration,
 - waste water treatment,
 - drinking water treatment (including haloform formation).

COST Project 681 - Treatment and use of organic sludges and liquid agricultural wastes

- (a) Treatment of sludges and agricultural wastes :
 - further improvement of conventional treatment methods, mainly with regard to their economic aspects, and of processes for biogas production from sludges and manures,
 - study of technologies specifically applicable to small plants and of processes to eliminate heavy metals at their source.
- (b) Analysis of sludges and residues :
 - development and standardization of economic multi-element methods for the analysis of trace elements in sludges, soils and plants, and for the analysis of organic pollutants.
- (c) Hygienic aspects of treatment and use of sludges :
 - elaboration and improvement of methods for the detection and identification of bacteria, viruses and other pathogens, and study of their survival and contamination potential,
 - investigations of the efficiency of hygienization processes, definition of 'indicator organisms'.
- (d) Nuisances :
 - odour characterization and emission control.
- (e) Environmental effects of spreading of sludges and manure :
 - long-term field experiments on the accumulation of heavy metals, their availability to crops and on transfer of pollutants via soil to plants, and assessment of various application methods with regard to ground and surface water pollution.
- (f) Improvement of land-use of sludge and manure :
 - long-term field experiments on fertilizing value and soil improvement properties of sludges and manures,
 - improvement of treatment processes and spreading equipment with regard to optimum land use,
 - study of the agricultural value of residues from treatment processes,
 - use of sludges and derived products for land reclamation and specific crops (e.g. biomass production).
- (g) Use of ecosystems residues as animal feed.

COST Project 647 - Benthic coastal ecosystems

Implementation of 'baseline-studies' for selected key species in undisturbed conditions along the European North Sea and Atlantic coast, in the Mediterranean and in the Baltic Sea for the following habitats :

- subtidal sediments,
- intertidal sediments,
- subtidal rock,
- intertidal rock.

Assessment of the role of :

- local physical factors,
- biological interactions,
- climatic and hydrographic factors on the population dynamics of selected components of benthic coastal ecosystems.

COST Project 612 - Air pollution effects on terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems

- (a) Direct effect of air pollutants (SO_2 , NO_x , HCl, ozone, photo-chemical oxidants and their atmospheric reaction products) on plants and terrestrial ecosystems.
- (b) Indirect effects of such air pollutants on plants and terrestrial ecosystems, e.g. via the acidification of soil and the mobilization of phytotoxic elements.
- (c) Links between the effects of air pollutants and other factors involved in the observed phenomenon of severely damaged terrestrial ecosystems, in particular forests, such as drought, plant diseases, fungi and pests.
- (d) Effects of air pollutants and their reaction products on crop plants, in particular reduced productivity.
- (e) Effects of air pollutants and their reaction products on aquatic ecosystems (reduction of the population of fish and other aquatic organisms due to acidification and mobilization of trace elements).

TERMS OF REFERENCE AND COMPOSITION OF EACH COMMUNITY-COST CONCERTATION
COMMITTEE

1. The Committee shall:

- 1.1. contribute to the optimum execution of the Project by giving its opinion on all aspects of its progress;
- 1.2. evaluate the results of the Project and draw conclusions regarding their application;
- 1.3. be responsible for the exchange of information provided for in Article 5(1) of the Agreement;
- 1.4. suggest guidelines to the Project Leader, if any.

2. The Committee's reports and the opinions shall be communicated to the States.

3. The Committee shall be composed of one delegate from the Commission, as co-ordinator of the Community concerted action project, one delegate from each participating non-member State, one delegate from each Member State representing its national programme and the Project Leader, if any. Each delegate may be accompanied by experts.

Financing Rules

Article 1

These provisions lay down the financial rules referred to in Article 4 of the Community-COST Concertation Agreement.

Article 2

At the beginning of each financial year, the Commission shall send to each of the participating non-Member States a call for funds corresponding to the number of concerted action projects in which it participates and to its share of the annual co-ordination costs under the Agreement, calculated in proportion to the amounts laid down in Article 4 of the Agreement.

This contribution shall be expressed both in ECU and the currency of the participating non-Member State concerned, the value of the ECU being defined in the Financial Regulation applicable to the general budget of the European Communities and determined on the date of the call for funds.

The total contributions shall cover the travel and subsistence costs of the delegates to the Committee, in addition to the co-ordination costs proper.

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Each participating non-Member State shall pay its annual contribution to the co-ordination costs under the Agreement at the beginning of each year, and by 31 March at the latest. Any delay in the payment of the annual contribution shall give rise to the payment of interest by the participating non-Member State concerned at a rate equal to the highest discount rate ruling in the States on the due date. The rate shall be increased by 0.25 of a percentage point for each month of delay. The increased rate shall be applied to the entire period of delay. However, such interest shall be chargeable only if payment is effected more than three months after the issue of a call for funds by the Commission.

Article 3

The funds paid by participating non-Member States shall be credited to the concerted action projects in which they participate as budget receipts allocated to a heading in the statement of the revenue of the Budget of the European Communities (Commission section).

Article 4

The provisional timetable for the co-ordination costs referred to in Article 4 of the Agreement is annexed.

Article 5

The Financial Regulation in force applicable to the general budget of the European Communities shall apply to the management of the appropriations.

Article 6

At the end of each financial year, a statement of appropriations for each concerted action project shall be prepared and transmitted to the participating non-Member States for information.

PROVISIONAL TIMETABLE FOR CONCERTED ACTIONS (COST 611-641-681-647-612)

	1984		1985		TOTAL	
	AC	AP	AC	AP	AC	AP
1. Initial estimate of overall requirements						
- Staff	-	-	-	-	-	-
- Administrative operating expenditure	550.000	550.000	750.000	750.000	1.300.000	1.300.000
- Contracts	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	550.000	550.000	750.000	750.000	1.300.000	1.300.000
2. Revised estimate of expenditure taking into account additional requirements arriving from the accession of participating non-member States						
- Staff	-	-	-	-	-	-
- Administrative operating expenditure	550.000+(nx11.000)	550.000+(nx11.000)	750.000+(nx15.000)	750.000+(nx15.000)	1.300.000+(nx26.000)	1.300.000+(nx26.000)
- Contracts	-	-	-	-	-	-
NEW TOTAL	550.000+(nx11.000)	550.000+(nx11.000)	750.000+(nx15.000)	750.000+(nx15.000)	1.300.000+(nx26.000)	1.300.000+(nx26.000)
3. Difference between (1) and (2) to be covered by contribution from participating non-member States	nx11.000	nx11.000	nx15.000	nx15.000	nx26.000	nx26.000

n = number of participating non-member States. AC = account credited. AP = account paid.