



COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

Brussels, 13.11.1995

COM(95) 539 final

95/0271 (CNS)

Proposal for a

COUNCIL DECISION

modifying its decision of 23 November 1994 adopting a specific programme for research and technological development in the field of cooperation with third countries and international organizations (1994-1998)

(presented by the Commission)


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EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

1. The Commission in its communication COM(95)190 of 16 May 1995 to the Council and European Parliament advocated reintegrating the activities of INTAS in the Commission.
2. The great majority of Member States was in favour of continuing INTAS in its present structure. Parliament, too, favoured continuing INTAS and reinforcing the Scientific Council.
3. This divergence of views has persisted for more than a year, and is threatening to block the whole of cooperation in science and technology with Eastern Europe.
4. The Presidency compromise consists of the following elements:
 - provisional continuation of INTAS until the end of the fourth framework programme
 - a declaration that this does not constitute a precedent for other areas of S&T cooperation between the Community and third countries
 - a right of veto for the Commission as the Community's representative in the General Assembly
 - presidency of the INTAS General Assembly to be held by the Commission as the Community's representative
 - Community financing of up to approximately 50% of the resources intended for the New Independent States of the former Soviet Union. This corresponds to between 12 and 15 MECU/annum.¹

This compromise strengthens the Commission's role in INTAS and will enable it to assume its responsibilities with regard to the proper execution of its financial contribution to INTAS. This stronger position and the rights already provided for under the INTAS Statutes (e.g. the Commission's right to nominate an auditor, and the right of the Commission and the Court of Auditors to verify that the Community contribution is used in accordance with the Financial Regulation of the European Communities) are sufficient guarantee that the Community's objectives as laid down in the specific programme on international cooperation and in the Financial Regulation (sound management) can be achieved.

¹ The resources available for the countries of Central and Eastern Europe and the NIS average around 60 MECU/annum for the duration of the fourth framework programme. Between 40 and 50% of these resources will be attributed to the NIS. The precise breakdown between CCEE and NIS has still to be determined.

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5. With regard to the legal construction, the Council is currently tending towards a solution consisting in the continuation of INTAS on the basis of "conclusions" or a *sui generis* decision ("Beschuß"), without a prior proposal for a decision from the Commission.
 6. The Commission favours a proposal for a decision pursuant to Articles 189 and 130i(4) of the Treaty.

That decision is the subject of this proposal.

COUNCIL DECISION

of

modifying its decision of 23 November 1994 adopting a specific programme for research and technological development in the field of cooperation with third countries and international organizations (1994-1998)

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community, and in particular Article 130 i(4) thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the Commission¹,

Having regard to the opinion of the European Parliament²,

Having regard to the opinion of the Economic and Social Committee³,

Whereas the globalization of RTD activities requires the European Community to develop and implement an international RTD cooperation strategy consistent with the objectives of the Treaty ; Whereas the Commission has submitted a communication on perspectives for international cooperation in research and technological development,

Whereas it is important that scientific and technological cooperation with the New Independent States of the former Soviet Union (NIS) be continued in the context of a generalized process of transformation in these countries and in order to contribute to stabilizing their scientific potential,

Whereas the Commission presented a communication on 18 May 1995⁴ on the prospects of scientific and technological cooperation with the New Independent States of the former Soviet Union, and in particular on the Community's participation in the International Association for the promotion of cooperation with scientists from the NIS (INTAS) ; Whereas that the analysis of this communication will need to be pursued in the framework of the examination of the Commission's communication on perspectives for international cooperation,

Whereas Council Decision N°. 94/807/EC adopting a specific programme for research and technological development, including demonstration, in the field of cooperation

¹OJ N°

²OJ N°

³OJ N°

⁴doc. 7641/95 RECH 67 NIS 65.

with third countries and international organizations⁵ confirms Community participation in the pilot phase of INTAS until the end of 1995 and specifies that Community participation in INTAS beyond 31 December 1995 is subject to a Decision of the Council authorizing such participation,

Whereas the European Parliament, in its Resolution of, expressed its support for the continuation of the Community participation in INTAS beyond 1995 and until the end of the fourth framework programme,

Whereas there is need for a substantial improvement in the efficiency and transparency of INTAS procedures ; Whereas, therefore, the work going on under the auspices of the INTAS General Assembly to find ways and means for improving the functioning of INTAS is a welcome initiative,

Whereas, without setting in any way a precedent for present or future specific programmes of research and development, the action might be extended up to the end of the fourth framework programme and the end of the specific programme concerned (31 December 1998), provided the said improvements are implemented, in particular by way of modification of the statutes of INTAS so as to better reflect the importance of Community participation,

Whereas the Commission will propose standard procedures for the implementation of international research cooperation in future framework programmes,

Whereas appropriate and stable Community funding should continue to be made available to INTAS ; Whereas it is important to broaden the funding basis of INTAS, and in particular to attract additional contributions,

Whereas Community funding of INTAS activities should take into account the need for cooperation in other areas of strategic interest to the Community, in particular Central and Eastern Europe and the Mediterranean,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION :

Article 1

In Annex I of Council decision N° 94/807/EC, under part A.2 "cooperation with the countries of central and eastern Europe and with the new independent States of the former Soviet Union", the paragraph beginning with the words "the International Association for Promotion of Cooperation..." and ending with the words "...authorizing the participation of the Community ;" is replaced by the following paragraph :

- "- the participation of the Community in the International Association for the Promotion of Cooperation with Scientists from the New Independent States of the Former Soviet Union (INTAS), in particular by means of a financial contribution in the order of about half of the funds available at present for the

⁵OJ L 334, 22.12.94, p. 109.

cooperation with these New Independent States under this programme, and for activities conforming to its objectives; such participation is subject to a modification of the Statutes of INTAS in such a way that the decisions requiring a two-thirds majority of the General Assembly are taken with the agreement of the Community, represented by the Commission, and that the Commission assumes the presidency of the General Assembly."

Article 2

This decision is addressed to the Member States.

Done at Brussels, on

For the Council
The President



FINANCIAL STATEMENT

1. TITLE OF OPERATION

Prolongation of the International Association for the promotion of cooperation with scientists from the New Independent States of the former Soviet Union (INTAS).

2. BUDGET HEADING INVOLVED

B6-7211

Cooperation with third countries and international organizations.

3. LEGAL BASIS

Article 130 i (4) of the Treaty.

4. DESCRIPTION OF OPERATION

4.1 General objective

Prolongation of the INTAS Association in order to promote scientific and technological cooperation with the New Independent States of the former Soviet Union, with a view, in particular, to stabilizing the RTD potential and providing support for scientists from those countries.

4.2 Fields covered

Scientific and technological research activities designed in particular to stabilize the RTD potential, as provided for in the work programme on international cooperation.

4.3 Period covered

1996-1998

5. CLASSIFICATION OF EXPENDITURE OR REVENUE

Non-compulsory expenditure.
Differentiated appropriations.

6. TYPE OF EXPENDITURE OR REVENUE

Financing of the INTAS Association. The objective is to implement scientific and technological cooperation projects between the member countries of the association and the New Independent States of the former Soviet Union.

7. FINANCIAL IMPACT

7.1 Indicative schedule of appropriations for this operation (in MECU)

	1996	1997	1998	TOTAL
Commitment appropriations	12-15	12-15	12-15	36-45
Payment appropriations	12-15	12-15	12-15	36-45

7.2 Indicative multiannual schedule of appropriations for the programme (in MECU)

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999 +	TOTAL ¹
Commitment appropriations	59.917	145.000	176.000	197.083	-	578.000
Payment appropriations	38.636	106.000	86.000	146.000	201.364	578.000

8. ELEMENTS OF COST-EFFECTIVENESS ANALYSIS

8.1 Specific objectives - target population

The objective of the activity is to help promote cooperation with the New Independent States of the former Soviet Union in the field of research and technological development, in

¹ Following enlargement, the Commission presented to the Council and Parliament a proposal for a 7% increase in the 4th FPEC 1994-1998 - COM(95)145 final, 12.4.1995.

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particular by stabilizing the RTD potential in the countries concerned.

8.2 Grounds for the operation

The operation concerns international cooperation in the field of research in order to safeguard the RTD potential, as provided for in the work programme.

8.3 Monitoring and evaluation of the operation

The projects will be monitored and evaluated in accordance with INTAS rules (Recommendation of the Scientific Council, Decision of the General Assembly).

9. FRAUD PREVENTION MEASURES

Numerous administrative and financial control mechanisms apply at all stages of contract award and implementation. These include:

Prior to conclusion :

- Initial selection of the proposals according to scientific merit and realistic estimate of the cost of the research in relation to its nature, duration and potential impact.
- Analysis of the financial information communicated by the proposers in the negotiation form.

After contract signature :

- Examination of the statements of expenditure before payment, at several levels (financial manager, responsible scientific officer).
- Checks on the spot to detect errors or other irregularities through scrutiny of the supporting documents.

10. ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENDITURE

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Two Commission A officials are seconded to INTAS. This currently involves expenditure of ECU 115 000 per person/annum, i.e. ECU 230 000/annum.

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DOCUMENTS

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