

PRESS RELEASE

5387/82 (Presse 25)

756th meeting of the Council

- Research -

Brussels, 8 March 1982

President: Mr Philippe MAYSTADT,
Minister for Policy on Science
of the Kingdom of Belgium

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

Belgium:

Mr Philippe MAYSTADT
Minister for Policy on Science

Germany:

Mr Andreas von BÜLOW
Federal Minister for Research
and Technology

France:

Mr Jean-Pierre CHEVENEMENT
Minister for Technology

Italy:

Mr Giancarlo TESINI
Minister for Scientific Research

Netherlands:

Mr J.C. TERLOUW
Deputy Prime Minister
Minister for Economic Affairs

Denmark:

Mr Gunnard RIBERHOLDT
Ambassador,
Permanent Representative

Greece:

Mr Evangelos KOULOUMBIS
Minister for Research and
Technology

Ireland:

Mr Andrew O'ROURKE
Ambassador,
Permanent Representative

Luxembourg:

Mr Jean DONDELINGER
Ambassador,
Permanent Representative

United Kingdom:

Mr John WAKEHAM
State Secretary,
Department of Industry

Mr John MOORE
State Secretary,
Department of Energy

Commission:

Viscount Etienne DAVIGNON, Vice-President

RESEARCH PROGRAMME ON RAW MATERIALS

The Council adopted a common position on the raw materials programme for 1982 to 1985. Since the European Parliament has requested that the conciliation procedure be initiated, this common position will be forwarded to it immediately.

The common position comprises the following basic points:

- Continuation and extension in an integrated form of a number of research activities hitherto undertaken as separate programmes in the following areas:
 - I Metals and mineral substances
 - II Wood
 - III Recycling of non-ferrous metals
 - IV Substitution and technical ceramics.
- Incorporation of two programmes already adopted (secondary raw materials and uranium) for which the funds are already committed.
- Execution either by indirect action (shared cost contracts between the Commission and public or private research organizations within the Member States) or by action on the part of the Member States, co-ordinated at Community level.
- Funding for the programme of 54 MECU (with 18 staff) to be distributed amongst the four areas as follows: 25 MECU: I; 12 MECU: II; 6.5 MECU: III; 10.5 MECU: IV.

FUSION

Pending its own decision following receipt of the Opinion of the European Parliament, expected before the end of the week, the Council adopted a favourable attitude on the basic features of the fusion research programme for 1982 to 1986.

The Council's attitude may be detailed as follows:

This programme is part of a long-term co-operation project embracing all work carried out in the Member States in the field of controlled thermonuclear fusion. It is designed to lead, in due course, to the joint construction of prototypes with a view to their industrial production and marketing.

It will cover:

- (a) plasma physics in the sector concerned, in particular studies relating to confinement with suitable devices and to methods for producing and heating plasma;
- (b) research into the confinement, in closed configurations, of plasma of widely varying density and temperature;
- (c) research into light-matter interactions and transport phenomena and the development of high-power lasers;
- (d) the development and application to confinement devices of sufficiently powerful plasma heating methods;
- (e) improvement of diagnostic methods;
- (f) definition of the large device constituting the next step after JET (NET) and technological developments required for its design and construction as well as those needed in the longer term for the fusion reactor;
- (g) completion of the construction of the JET device in its basic performance; extension of JET to full performance; operation and exploitation of JET.

The implementation of the JET project referred to in (g), entrusted to a joint undertaking, is the single most important element in this programme and has been given a financial allocation of 319 MECU and a staff of 150 for the beginning of the programme and 165 at the end of 1986.

The main aim of the elements of the general programme is to supplement this programme and to obtain results with a view to designing the next step after JET and the technology necessary for that purpose.

The work under the general programme will be carried out by means of association or limited duration contracts. The allocation of the overall budget of 301 MECU will be as follows:

Association running costs	129 MECU
JET support	15 MECU
Normal priority actions	(88 MECU
Possible large new devices	
NET and technology	52 MECU
Management and mobility	17 MECU

There will be 113 staff at the beginning of the programme and 105 at the end of 1986.

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In this context the Council also discussed, on the basis of a note from the Commission, the questions arising with respect to international co-operation on fusion. The Council agreed to continue this examination at its next meeting on research.

COMMUNITY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

Further to the Council's request on 9 November 1981 that studies be undertaken on a number of aspects of a Community research and development strategy, the Commission submitted to the Council on 24 February two communications on:

- a framework programme for the scientific and technical activities of the Community: Principles and methods of working;
- stimulating the scientific and technical potential of the European Community: Perception of needs and action to be undertaken.

The Council held a policy debate on these two communications, which allowed delegations to give their general thoughts on the problems raised.

The Council held a constructive exchange of views on the concept of the framework programme for the scientific and technical activities of the Community. It invited the Commission to submit a preliminary draft to the next meeting of the Research Council. It also approved the Commission's suggestion that a particular study be made of procedural problems regarding the establishment and assessment of the programmes. This study would be carried out within an "ad hoc" Working Party consisting of Commission representatives, full members of CREST and personal representatives of the Ministers. The Council asked the Commission to submit the Working Party's conclusions to the next Council meeting.

On the second communication, the Council took note of the Commission's intention of submitting a new document for the next meeting of the Research Council in the light of today's discussions.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Customs union and trade policy

The Council adopted, in the official languages of the Communities,
Regulations:

- amending Regulation (EEC) No 1798/75 on the importation free of Common Customs Tariff duties of educational, scientific and cultural materials;
- making the importation into Greece of certain jute products originating in Bangladesh or India subject to quantitative limitation;
- on the conclusion of the Agreement in the form of an exchange of letters between the European Economic Community and the Portuguese Republic regarding prepared or preserved tomatoes falling within subheading 20.02 C of the Common Customs Tariff.

ECSC

The Council gave assents, pursuant to Article 56(2)(a) of the ECSC Treaty (conversion loan), in respect of:

- Société UTEMA-TRAVHYDRO ("TRAVHYDRO") SA, Belgium;
- Belgian Mechanical Fabrication (BMF) SA, Belgium;
- Usines à Tubes de la Meuse SA, Belgium;
- Halbergerhütte GmbH, Federal Republic of Germany;
- Kent Confectionery Industries Ltd., United Kingdom.

The Council also gave its assent, pursuant to the first paragraph of Article 95 of the ECSC Treaty, on the draft Commission Decision (ECSC) amending Decision 73/287/ECSC concerning coking coal and coke for the iron and steel industry in the Community.

It should be noted that this Decision extends the period of validity of the instrument in question until the end of 1983 while making a number of amendments to it; Community financing will apply to a maximum tonnage of 14 million tonnes and a maximum amount of 47 MECU per year, while the sales aid in respect of deliveries to areas remote from the coalfield may be as high as 4.70 ECU/t for deliveries by sea and 2.80 ECU/t in other cases.

The Council also gave the consultation under Article 6(1) of Commission Decision No 528/76/ECSC on financial aid awarded by the Member States to the coal industry in 1981.

Appointment

On a proposal from the Italian Government, the Council appointed Mr Pietro IMBERTI, Unione Italiana del Lavoro, member of the ECSC Consultative Committee to replace Mr Agostino CONTE, who has resigned, for the remainder of the latter's term of office, which runs until 24 November 1982.

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NOTE BIO(82)99 AUX BUREAUX NATIONAUX
CC AUX MEMBRES DU GROUPE DU PORTE-PAROLE

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PREPARATION CONSEIL RECHERCHE (JOHN ROBINSON)

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LE CONSEIL RECHERCHE QUI AURA LIEU LUNDI 8 MARS, AU CHARLEMAGNE,
COMMENCERA A 10 HEURES. IL Y AURA TROIS POINTS A L'ORDRE DU
JOUR, ■CONCERNANT RESPECTIVEMENT :

1. FUSION THERMONUCLEAIRE (COM 81 357 FINAL)

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LE CONSEIL SERA APPELE A ADOPTER LE PROGRAMME DE RECHERCHE POUR
LES ANNEES 1982-86 PROPOSE PAR LA COMMISSION AU MOIS DE JUILLET
L'ANNEE PASSEE COMPORTANT UNE ENVELOPPE GLOBALE DE 680 MUCE). IL
Y A EN EFFET DEUX PARTIES DE CE PROGRAMME DE RECHERCHE :
■- LE PROGRAMME GENERAL POUR LEQUEL LA COMMISSION A PROPOSE UN
■ CHIFFRE DE 325 ■MUCE POUR LES 5 ANNEES A VENIR. (BACKGROUND:
■ ICI ON SEMBLE S'ACHEMINER VERS UN COMPROMIS PROPOSE PAR LA
■ PRESIDENCE DU CONSEIL DE 305 MUCE).
■- LE PROGRAMME JET POUR LEQUEL LA COMMISSION A PROPOSE 355 MUCE.
■ (BACKGROUND: COMPROMIS PROPOSE PAR LA PRESIDENCE DU CONSEIL
■ DE 320 MUCE).

AUTRE THEME A DEBATTRE DANS LE DOMAINE DE LA FUSION THERMONUCLE-
AIRE EST CELUI DE LA COOPERATION INTERNATIONALE. EN EFFET, LES
COUTS DE RECHERCHE/FUSION AUGMENTENT DE FACON SI SIGNIFICATIVE
QU'IL EST OPPORTUN DE VOIR SI DES ECONOMIES NE POURRAIENT ETRE
REALISEES PAR UNE COOPERATION ENTRE LA COMMUNAUTE ET LES AUTRES
■ 'GRANDS' DE LA FUSION THERMONUCLEAIRE, TELS QUE LES ETATS-
UNIS, LE JAPON ET L'URSS. LUNDI, DONC? IL Y AURA UN DEBAT
MINISTERIEL SUR L'OPPORTUNITE D'UNE TELLE COOPERATION.

2. STRATEGIE COMMUNAUTAIRE DE RECHERCHE ET DEVELOPPEMENT (COM
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574 FINAL)

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LE DOCUMENT DE BASE EST LA COMMUNICATION DE LA COMMISSION DU 12
OCTOBRE DERNIER. LUNDI LE CONSEIL DEVRAIT DEBATTRE D'UN 'PRO-
GRESS REPORT' EN DEUX DOMAINES SPECIFIQUES COUVERTS PAR CETTE
COMMUNICATION A SAVOIR :
A. LA MISE SUR PIED D'UN PROGRAMME-CADRE DES ACTIVITES SCIENTI-
■ FIQUES ET TECHNIQUES COMMUNAUTAIRES.
B. LA STIMULATION DU POTENTIEL SCIENTIFIQUE ET TECHNIQUE DE LA
■ COMMUNAUTE.

3. PROGRAMME DE RECHERCHE ET DEVELOPPEMENT DANS LE DOMAINE DES
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MATIERES PREMIERES 1982-85 (COM 81 281 FINAL)

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M.Santarelli GPP

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SUR CE POINT, COMME POUR LE PROGRAMME FUSION, LA COMMISSION
ESPERE L'ADOPTION DE CE PROGRAMME. ICI LE PROBLEME-CLE EST LA
QUESTION DE LA DOTATION FINANCIERE DE CE PROGRAMME A MOYEN TERME,
PROGRAMME QUI COUVRE LES DOMAINES TELS QUE L'URANIUM, LES METAUX
NON-FERREUX, LE BOIS, LA CERAMIQUE. (BACKGROUND: ON SEMBLE
S'ACHEMINER VERS UN COMPROMIS QUI POURRAIT SE SITUER ENTRE 50
MUCE ET 60 MUCE.

AMITIES
MANUEL SANTARELLI COMEUR
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NOTE BIO (82) 99 AUX BUREAUX NATIONAUX (SUITE ET FIN)
CC AUX MEMBRES DU GROUPE DU PORTE-PAROLE

CONSEIL RECHERCHE (JOHN ROBINSON)

LE CONSEIL DE RECHERCHE, QUI A COMMENCE SES TRAVAUX AUJOURD'HUI LE 8 MARS A 10 H, A TERMINE SES DEBATS VERS 18 H. LE RESULTAT DE CETTE REUNION MINISTERIELLE A ETE LARGEMENT POSITIF, PUISQUE LE CONSEIL S'EST DECIDE SUR LE PROGRAMME 1982 A 1986 DE LA FUSION THERMONUCLEAIRE AINSI QUE LE PROGRAMME 1982 A 1985 DE RECHERCHE SUR LES MATIERES PREMIERES. LE CONSEIL, QUI ETAIT PRESIDE PAR LE MINISTRE BELGE MAYSTADT, A PROCEDÉ EN OUTRE A UNE ECHANGE DE VUE SUR LA STRATEGIE COMMUNAUTAIRE DE RECHERCHE ET DE DEVELOPPEMENT POUR LES ANNEES 80.

1. FUSION THERMONUCLEAIRE

LE CONSEIL S'EST MIS D'ACCORD DE DETERMINER LE PROGRAMME DE RECHERCHE DANS CE DOMAINE, QUI COMPORTE LE PROGRAMME JET ET LE PROGRAMME GENERAL DE RECHERCHE, D'UNE ENVELOPPE FINANCIERE COMMUNAUTAIRE GLOBALE DE 620 MIO ECU. CE CHIFFRE GLOBAL SE VENTILE EN DEUX PARTIES : 319 MIO ECU POUR LE PROGRAMME JET, ET 301 POUR LE PROGRAMME GENERAL. PLUSIEURS DELEGATIONS, A COMMENCER PAR CELLE DE LA COMMISSION QUI ETAIT MENEÉ PAR LE VICE-PRESIDENT DE LA COMMISSION ETIENNE DAUIGNON, ONT SOULIGNE LE LIEN ENTRE CES DEUX PROGRAMMES, LIEN DONT L'ILLUSTRATION SEMBLE AVOIR PERMIS A LA DELEGATION DU ROYAUME UNI DE VAINCRE SES RETICENCES SUR LE NIVEAU DE LA CONTRIBUTION COMMUNAUTAIRE AU PROGRAMME GENERAL. L'ACCORD SUR LES DEUX ELEMENTS DE CE PROGRAMME, QUI EST DE LOIN LE PROGRAMME DE RECHERCHE LE PLUS VASTE AU NIVEAU COMMUNAUTAIRE, A ETE CONSIDERE PAR PLUSIEURS DELEGATIONS, DONT LA COMMISSION, COMME ETANT UN FAIT POLITIQUE DE GRANDE SIGNIFICATION. LA SIGNIFICATION FINANCIERE EST, D'AILLEURS, ENCORE PLUS GRANDE SI ON AJOUTE AUX 620 MIO ECU DES CONTRIBUTIONS NATIONALES QUI POUSSE LE TOTAL GENERAL DE L'ENVELOPPE FINANCIERE POUR LE PROGRAMME DE FUSION THERMONUCLEAIRE DE LA COMMUNAUTÉ AU DELA DU CHIFFRE DE MILLE MIO ECU. PLUSIEURS DELEGATIONS ONT EGALEMENT INSISTE SUR LE FAIT QUE CE GENRE DE RECHERCHE N'ETAIT FINANCIEREMENT POSSIBLE QU'A CONDITION DE COLLABORER AU NIVEAU COMMUNAUTAIRE. L'ACCORD JURIDIQUE DU CONSEIL SUR CE PROGRAMME, QUE LE PARLEMENT DEBATERA LE 11 MARS, DEURAIT INTERVENIR LORS D'UN PROCHAIN CONSEIL.

C'EST D'AILLEURS LE SOUCI DE COUTS ET DE COLLABORATION NECESSAIRE QUI A FOURNI LA BASE DE LA DISCUSSION MINISTERIELLE, QUE LA COMMISSION A CONSIDERE URGENTE, SUR L'OPPORTUNITE DE LA COOPERATION INTERNATIONALE DANS LE DOMAINE DE LA FUSION. EN EFFET, SI LES RESSOURCES NECESSAIRES A LA MISE SUR PIED DU JET SONT CONSIDERABLES, CELLES QUI SONT IMPLIQUEES PAR CE QU'ON CONVIENT D'APPELER LA "NEXT STEP", DE LA FUSION THERMONUCLEAIRE LE SONT ENCORE PLUS. TELLE A ETE LA POSITION ESQUISSE PAR LE VICE-PRESIDENT DAVIGNON, ET LA COMMISSION A RECU LE FEU VERT DU CONSEIL POUR ENTREPRENDRE DES POURPARLERS EXPLORATOIRES AVEC LES ETATS UNIS ET LE JAPON SUR LA QUESTION DE LA COOPERATION INTERNATIONALE.

2. RECHERCHE DANS LE DOMAINE DES MATIERES PREMIERES

LE CONSEIL S'EST MIS D'ACCORD SUR UNE ENVELOPPE FINANCIERE DE 54 MIO ECU POUR LE FINANCEMENT DE CE PROGRAMME. CE CHIFFRE SE PARTAGE DE MANIERE SUIVANTE : METAUX ET SUBSTANCES MINERALES - 25 MIO ECU, BOIS - 12 MIO ECU, RECYCLAGE DE METAUX NON-FERREUX - 6-7 MIO ECU, SUBSTITUTION ET CERAMIQUES TECHNIQUES 10-11 MIO ECU.

LA COMMISSION, QUI AVAIT PROPOSE L'ANNEE DERNIERE UN CHIFFRE DE 71 MIO ECU, S'EST RALLIEE A CE COMPROMIS, EN OBTENANT DU CONSEIL QU'ELLE JOUIRAIT D'UNE FLEXIBILITE CONSIDERABLE DANS L'AFFECTATION DES MONTANTS CORRESPONDANT A CHACUN DES QUATRE VOLETS PRECITES. M. DAVIGNON A DE NOUVEAU SIGNE L'IMPORTANCE POLITIQUE DE CET ACCORD QUI DEVRAIT PERMETTRE UNE PLUS GRANDE COHERENCE ET INTEGRATION DE LA POLITIQUE COMMUNAUTAIRE EN MATIERE DE RECHERCHE DANS CE DOMAINE QUI, JUSQU'ICI, A ETE TROP DISPERSE. L'ACCORD POLITIQUE SUR CE DOSSIER QUI EST INTERVENU AUJOURD'HUI DOIT ATTENDRE LA PROCEDURE DE CONCERTATION AVEC LE PARLEMENT AVANT D'ETRE JURIDIQUEMENT FINALISEE - PROBABLEMENT SOUS FORME D'UN POINT "A" LORS DU PROCHAIN CONSEIL ENERGIE PREVU POUR LE 16 MARS.

3. STRATEGIE COMMUNAUTAIRE DE RECHERCHE ET DE DEVELOPPEMENT

LE CONSEIL A EU UN LARGE DEBAT SUR DEUX DOSSIERS S'INSERANT DANS LA STRATEGIE COMMUNAUTAIRE QU'ELLE A PROPOSEE LE 12

OCTOBRE DERNIER, A SAVOIR : PROGRAMME-CADRE DES ACTIVITES
SCIENTIFIQUE ET TECHNIQUE DE LA COMMUNAUTE EUROPEENNE :
PRINCIPES ET MODALITES

STIMULATION DU POTENTIEL SCIENTIFIQUE ET TECHNIQUE DE LA COM-
MUNAUTE EUROPEENNE : PERCEPTION DES BESOINS ET ACTIONS A ENTRE-
PRENDRE.

SUR LE PREMIER DE CES DOSSIERS, APRES AVOIR ENTENDU
UN EXPOSE DE M. DAVIGNON, LE CONSEIL A INVITE LA COMMISSION
A LUI PRESENTER AVANT LE PROCHAIN CONSEIL, PREVU POUR LE MOIS
DE JUIN, UN AVANT-PROJET DE PROGRAMME-CADRE. POUR L'AIDER A
CETTE FIN, LA COMMISSION CONVOQUERA UN GROUPE AD HOC COMPOSE
DE SES REPRESENTANTS, DES REPRESENTANTS TITULAIRES DU
CREST ET DES REPRESENTANTS PERSONNELS DES MINISTRES DE LA
RECHERCHE, ET CECI PROBABLEMENT FIN AVRIL/DEBUT MAI.

QUANT A LA STIMULATION DU POTENTIEL SCIENTIFIQUE ET TECHNIQUE,
PLUSIEURS DELEGATIONS DES ETATS MEMBRES SE SONT MONTREES PRE-
OCCUPE DE LA POSSIBILITE D'UNE PROLIFERATION DE STRUCTURES
ADMINISTRATIVES QUE POURRAIT IMPLIQUER LE DOCUMENT DE LA COM-
MISSION. A CET EGARD ILS ONT RECU LES ASSURANCES DE M. DAVIGNON
QUE TEL NE SERA PAS LE CAS. CE DOSSIER SEPA EVENTUELLEMENT
DISCUTE DE NOUVEAU LORS DE LA REUNION DU GROUPE AD HOC
PRECITE ET LORS DU PROCHAIN CONSEIL.

AMITIES
MANUEL SANTARELLI COMEUR
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