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ANNEX

to the report by Mr G. SCHMID
drawn up on behalf of the Committee on Energy,
Research and Technology

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Opinions from other committees

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OPINION OF THE COMMITTEE ON BUDGETS

Letter from the acting chairman to Mrs WALZ, chairman of the Committee on Energy, Research and Technology

Subject: Proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council for a decision adopting the second stage (January 1984 - March 1986) of the multi-annual research and training programme for the European Economic Community in the field of biomolecular engineering (Doc. 1-525/83 - COM(83) 356 final)

Dear Madam Chairman,

At its meeting of 21/22 September 1983 the Committee on Budgets considered the above Commission proposal.

The Committee on Budgets noted that the present Commission proposal is the outcome of an extremely protracted series of discussions in the Council, which was only able in December 1981, almost two years after the Commission had presented its first proposal, to agree yet again on the smallest common denominator and established only 8 m ECU for four years instead of the 26 m ECU for a five-year programme proposed by the Commission.

The Council also decided that in the course of the second year the programme was to be reviewed and fresh calculations made of the resources needed to implement the programme and staffing. The present Commission proposal provides for the revised programme from 1984 to 1986 further resources of 7 m ECU and two additional staff.

It is striking that in the preliminary draft budget for 1984 the budget item concerned (7301) shows resources of some 17.4 m ECU commitment appropriations and some 6.6 m ECU payment appropriations. The remarks show that some of these resources are intended for a different five-year programme to develop biotechnology currently in preparation. Thus it would appear that the Commission is attempting to retain the total resources necessary by splitting up the programme. In the 1982 and 1983 budgets, the total of 6.87 m ECU commitment appropriations and 4.7 m ECU payment appropriations were made available of which, however, only a proportion was spent.

The Committee on Budgets will therefore have to consider the matter of the level of resources for this programme and for a further programme being planned and the question of staff during the budget procedure for the 1984 budget. It wishes to point out once again in this context that resources are established in the budget by the Council and Parliament so that the reference to an amount and level of staffing in the regulation can only be of an indicative nature in the light of the Joint Declaration of 30 June 1982.

Subject to these comments and conditions, the Committee on Budgets approved the Commission proposal.

Yours sincerely

p.p. Carla Barbarella
Acting Chairman

The following took part in the vote: Mrs Barbarella, acting chairman, Mr Adam (deputizing for Mr Saby), Mr D'Angelosante (deputizing for Mrs Boserup), Mr Balfour, Mr Barbagli, Mr Barbi (deputizing for Mr Adonnino), Mr Fich, Mr Louwes, Mr Newton Dunn, Mrs Scrivener and Mr Woltjer (deputizing for Mr Orlandi).

OPINION OF THE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC AND MONETARY AFFAIRS

Draftsman: Mr HERMAN

At its meeting on 19-20 September 1983 the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs appointed Mr Herman as draftsman of an opinion for the Committee on Energy and Research.

The Committee considered the draft opinion at its meeting of 27-28 September 1983 and adopted it unanimously.

The following took part in the vote:

Mr MOREAU (Chairman); Mr von ROMPUY (presenting the opinion in the absence of the draftsman); Mr BEAZLEY; Mr BEUMER (deputizing for Mr Vergeer); Mr BONACCINI; Mr DAMZEAUX (deputizing for Mr Nordmann); Mrs DESOUCHES; Mr ROGALLA (deputizing for Mr Wagner); Mr WEDEKIND (deputizing for Mr Franz) and Mr von WOGAU.

Background

1. The Commission's current document contains its proposals for the second stage of the multi-annual research and training programme for the Community in the field of biomolecular engineering, originally adopted by the Council in December 1981. The research programme suggested is very similar to that in the first phase which has apparently been successful in terms of the large response from laboratories in the Member States to the call for tenders that was issued. The only change introduced to the scientific programme is one that would extend application of the second generation biomolecular technology, not just to the production of agri-food as in the first phase but also to the pharmaceutical and fine chemical industries as well.

2. The Commission also states that it is thinking of introducing, in the near future, a Research and Development Action Programme for biotechnology which would include, but be wider in scope than, the present biomolecular engineering programme.

Conclusions

3. The Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs emphasises the importance of enhancing Community research in this field, which along with the new information technologies, is probably the sector with the greatest potential for growth in the future. It therefore supports the extension of the existing programme to a second stage lasting until 1986, but intends to examine the implications for Community industry in greater detail when the Commission puts forward its wider-reaching proposals for a Research and Development Action Programme for biotechnology.

OPINION OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE ENVIRONMENT, PUBLIC HEALTH AND CONSUMER
PROTECTION

Letter from the Chairman of the committee to Mrs WALZ, President of the
Committee on Energy, Research and Technology

Luxembourg, 4 October 1983

Subject: Proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the
Council for a decision adopting the second phase (January 1984 -
March 1986) of the multi-annual research and training programme
for the European Community in the field of biomolecular engineering
(COM(83) 356 final)

Dear Madam Chairman,

At its meeting of 29 September 1983¹, the Committee on the Environment, Public
Health and Consumer Protection considered the proposal from the Commission of
the European Communities to the Council for a decision adopting the second stage
(January 1984 - March 1986) of the multi-annual research and training programme
for the European Economic Community in the field of biomolecular engineering
which was referred to it for an opinion on 6 July 1983.

We should recall that at its meeting of 25 April 1980, the Committee on the
Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection delivered a favourable
opinion, in letter form, on the original proposal from the Commission of the
European Communities on this matter (COM(79) 793 final) noting in particular
that the programme offered scope for innovation in the field of agriculture,
industry, protection of man and the environment and in the light of the
favourable opinion from the Scientific and Technical Research Committee (CREST).

¹Present: Mr COLLINS, chairman; Miss HOOPER, vice-chairman; Mr CERAVOLO
(deputizing for Mrs LE ROUX), Mr EISMA; Mr GHERGO; Mrs KROUWEL-VLAM;
Mr MERTENS (deputizing for Mr DEL DUCA) and Mr MUNTINGH.

The programme under discussion is to consist, as in the first stage, of research and training projects. Its aim is to encourage and promote research in the fields of enzyme technology and genetic engineering together with related training projects; the programme would also seek to contribute to a solution of the safety problems involved in work on recombinant DNA¹.

The aim of this integrated programme in biotechnology is to increase the Community's competitiveness in agricultural and bioindustrial production and improve health protection and environmental conservation.

Account has however been taken of the potential risks to health and safety which such research work could engender. This is why it is considered necessary for the Commission to submit proposals with a view to achieving satisfactory harmonization of safety regulations both in relation to research and subsequent agricultural and industrial applications.

Given that the implementation of the second phase of the research and training programme in the field of the biomolecular engineering meets the need to continue and intensify the effort made in the first stage and in the light of the favourable opinion from the biological engineering advisory committee on programme management (ACPM) the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection fully endorses the proposal.

Please regard this letter as the opinion of the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection.

Kenneth D. COLLINS
Chairman

p.p. A.E. Schmid-Colmjon
Head of Division

¹ See in this context the resolution containing the opinion of the European Parliament on the proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council for a multi-annual Community programme of research and development in biomolecular engineering (indirect action 1981-1985), OJ No. C 327 15.12.1980, p. 38.

See too the resolution containing the opinion of the European Parliament on the proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council for a draft recommendation concerning the registration of work involving recombinant deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) OJ No. C 66, 15.3.1982, p.112.