



COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES  
GENERAL SECRETARIAT



**PRESS RELEASE**  
10650/82 (Presse 155)

799th Meeting of the Council

- Research -

Brussels, 4 November 1982

President: Mr Bertel HAARDER,  
Minister for Education  
of the Kingdom of Denmark

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

Belgium:

Mr Philippe MAYSTADT  
Minister for Scientific Policy

Denmark:

Mr Bertel HAARDER  
Minister for Education  
Mr Bjørn BRYNSKOV  
State Secretary  
Ministry of Education

Germany:

Mr Heinz RIESENHUBER  
Federal Minister for Research  
and Technology

Greece:

Mr George LIANIS  
Minister for Research and Technology

France:

Mr Jean-Pierre CHEVENEMENT  
Minister of State  
Ministry of Research and  
Industry

Ireland:

Mr Andrew O'ROURKE  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative

Italy:

Mr Giancarlo TESINI  
Minister for Scientific  
Research

Luxembourg:

Mr Paul HELMINGER  
State Secretary, Ministry of  
Foreign Affairs, External Trade and  
Co-operation

Netherlands:

Mr M.H.J.Ch. RUTTEN  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative

United Kingdom:

Mr David MELLOR  
Minister of State  
Ministry of Energy  
Mr R.B. NICHOLSON  
Government Chief Scientist in the  
Cabinet Office

For the Commission

Viscount Etienne DAVIGNON - Vice-President  
Mr Karl-Heinz NARJES - Member

ESPRIT PROGRAMME - PILOT STAGE

Further to the positive guidelines on which it had agreed at its meeting on 30 June 1982, the Council agreed on a joint position <sup>(1)</sup> on the essential features of Community activity in the field of information technology.

The Council took note that the Commission would shortly submit to it a formal proposal on the subject and agreed that it would take a decision on the proposal as soon as the European Parliament's Opinion was to hand.

In 1983 the activity would constitute a preparatory stage for a Community multiannual research and development programme. The pilot phase should make it possible to determine detailed arrangements for precompetitive R & D co-operation at Community level concerted with national programmes, taking account of requirements regarding the development of standards to serve the interests of European industry in this field.

The activity will involve pilot projects in the following fields: advanced microelectronics (2 projects), software technology (3 projects), advanced information processing (3 projects), office automation (4 projects), computer-integrated manufacturing (3 projects), information exchange system.

The projects will be executed by means of shared cost contracts, normally on the basis of a minimum of 50% from contractors with the remainder being contributed by the Community. The Community finance estimated to be necessary is 11.5 million ECU.

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<sup>(1)</sup> One delegation has reserved its position but will shortly make it known.

The activity will be open, on an equal footing and under appropriate conditions, to participation by all companies, including small and medium sized companies, universities and other bodies in all the Member States which are carrying out R & D activities in Information Technologies in the Community and which are interested in taking part. Normally, each contract should contain at least one industrial participant.

#### JRC RESEARCH PROGRAMME

The Council examined in depth the problems which exist in connection with the Super Sara project in the context of the Commission proposal on the revision of the 1983 programme, and the proposal on guidelines for the 1984-1987 JRC programme.

The Council concluded by agreeing to allow itself some time for reflection, in order that, in the light of the day's discussions and in particular of the explanations and suggestions concerning the financing of the project provided by the Commission during the discussions, delegations could consult with their national bodies on the possible solutions to this major problem. The Council agreed that the Permanent Representatives Committee would return to the matter as soon as delegations had clarified their positions.

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STIMULATING THE COMMUNITY'S SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL POTENTIAL:  
1983 EXPERIMENTAL PHASE

The Council worked out a joint position <sup>(1)</sup> on the experimental phase of a project to stimulate the scientific and technical potential of the Community.

The Council noted that the Commission was shortly to submit to it a formal proposal on the subject and agreed to take a decision on the proposal as soon as the Opinion of the European Parliament was to hand.

The experimental phase should last two years (1983/1984). It will consist of activities aimed at testing approaches and methods of Community stimulation, basically in the seven areas proposed by the Commission (Pharmacobiology, solid state physics, optics, combustion, photometry photacoustics, interface phenomena, climatology).

The funds needed for the execution of the experimental phase will be 7 million ECU.

The Commission will be responsible for the execution of these activities by means of research allocations, subsidies for laboratory "twinning", development contracts, subsidies for research teams, seminars and workshops. The Commission will be assisted by a Consultative Committee (CODEST) made up of personalities of recognized standing in scientific and technical fields, active within national research and development systems and aware of national policies, and by a group of consultants.

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<sup>(1)</sup> One delegation has reserved its position at this stage but will shortly make it known.

RESEARCH IN THE FIELD OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT

Nine delegations in the Council reached an agreement on a programme of research and development in the fields of science and technology for development <sup>(1)</sup> for an initial 4-year period (1982-1985).

The programme will concentrate on tropical agriculture and on medicine, health and nutrition in the Tropics.

Under the overall programme, competent bodies based in the European Community or in the developing countries will submit their own proposals for research and development projects.

The funds necessary for the execution of the programme are estimated to be 40 million ECU, which includes expenditure on staff.

The Commission will be responsible for the execution of the programme. Two Advisory Committees on Programme Management will be set up, one for the Tropical Agriculture sub-programme, and the other for the sub-programme on Medicine, Health and Nutrition in the Tropics.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

The Council reviewed the unresolved problems in connection with the adoption of 3 recommendations concerning telecommunications and agreed that the matter should be referred to the Ministers for Industrial Affairs.

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<sup>(1)</sup> One delegation upheld a reservation, but will make known its final position within two weeks.

MACHINE TRANSLATION SYSTEM OF ADVANCED DESIGN

The Council adopted the decision on the adoption of an European Economic Community research and development programme for a machine translation system of advanced design.

This programme in the new field of the development of computational linguistics is intended to help in overcoming the practical linguistic obstacles which hamper the Community's communications and internal and external trade and which prevent the full use of the benefits of tele-informatics and of communication and information networks in the Community.

The programme will last for five and a half years commencing on the day on which the Decision is published in the Official Journal of the European Communities; on completion, a prototype of an operational system should be available to the Community in a limited field and for limited categories of text, which would provide the basis for subsequent development on an industrial scale. The funds necessary for the execution of the programme come to 16 million ECU which will cover the cost of 8 temporary staff. The programme is in three stages:

- the 2 year preparatory phase, costing 2 million ECU, comprising definition and organization of the project, and definition of the methodology to be applied;
- a phase of basic and applied linguistic research
  - 2 years, 8.5 million ECU;
- a phase of stabilization of the linguistic models and evaluation of the results - 18 months, 5.5 million ECU.

At the end of each phase, there will be a review which may involve a revision of all or some aspects of the programme in accordance with the appropriate procedures.

The Commission is to be responsible for the execution of the programme, in particular by means of research contracts. It will be assisted by an Advisory Committee on Programme Management (ACPM) on which the Member States will be represented.

From the second phase onwards, the Community may conclude agreements with third countries, in particular with COST countries, to bring them into the programme.

If the results of the programme are used industrially or commercially, part of the Community's contributions must be repaid.

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OTHER DECISIONS

Agricultural policy

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

- laying down special measures in respect of olive oil producer organizations for the 1982/1983 marketing year;
- laying down general rules in respect of production aid for olive oil for the 1982/1983 marketing year.





Bruxelles, le 4 novembre 1982.  
Note Bio (82)460 aux Bureaux Nationaux  
cc. aux membres du Groupe du Porte-Parole  
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Preparation du Conseil Recherche (Willy HEUIN)  
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N.B. : Cette note Bio n'a pu être envoyée avant ce jeudi  
en raison d'un élément d'information qui passait  
en Commission mercredi soir.

Les Ministres de la Recherche des Dix se réunissent ce jeudi  
à Bruxelles pour évoquer principalement deux éléments concrets  
de la stratégie recherche proposée par la Commission d'ici à  
1990.

Il s'agit d'abord de lancer la "phase d'essai" du programme  
ESPRIT, qui devrait débuter le 1er janvier 1983.

Cette première phase sera financée à raison de 50% chacun par  
l'industrie et le budget CE (23 MUCE au total). Elle doit  
permettre à l'industrie européenne des technologies de  
l'information de coopérer dans un domaine de pointe, grand  
porteur de croissance.


M. Davignon a rappelé au Parlement Européen à Strasbourg (voir  
Bio 447 suite 5 et fin) quels sont les défis, les retards et les  
risques qui caractérisent cette stratégie.

Par ailleurs (voir la même Bio 447) le Conseil devrait se  
prononcer sur l'avenir du programme SUPER-SARA. Il s'agit d'un  
exercice de contrôle et de simulation (au centre de recherche  
d'ISPRA) qui doit permettre d'éviter à l'avenir des accidents du  
genre de celui intervenu à la centrale nucléaire de Three Mile  
Island.

Comme il l'a dit au Parlement, M. Davignon a indiqué hier soir à  
ses collègues qu'au cas où le Conseil Recherche ne dotait pas le  
projet d'une enveloppe budgétaire suffisante, la Commission  
serait amenée à abandonner tout simplement SUPER-SARA.

AMITES  
M.SANTARELLI

COMEUR 11h.30 ////





Bruxelles, le 5 novembre 1982.  
Note Bio (82) 460 suite 1 et fin aux Bureaux Nationaux

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cc. aux membres du Groupe du Porte-Parole  
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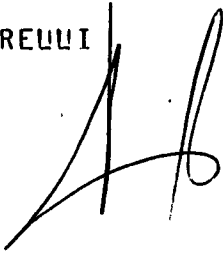
Conseil Recherche (W. Helin)  
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Après quatre heures d'après discussions les Dix n'ont pu se prononcer définitivement jeudi soir sur la dotation financière au profit du projet SUPER-SARA, expérience menée au centre de recherche d'ISPRA et qui doit permettre d'éviter à l'avenir des accidents du genre de celui intervenu à la centrale de Harrisburg ( Three Mile Island). Comme devait le dire le Vice-Président Davignon SUPER-SARA n'est pas encore mort. La Commission donnera rapidement les explications concernant l'enveloppe financière en dessous de laquelle elle estime que le projet n'est pas viable. M. Davignon a indiqué au Conseil que sans augmentation des crédits destinés à SUPER-SARA, la Commission se réservait le droit de retirer purement et simplement ce projet. Quant à la proposition de crédits, M. Davignon a souligné que pour la période 84/86 il faudrait prévoir au total 90 MECU. Le Conseil devra se prononcer, dans les quinze jours qui suivent sur les explications fournies par la Commission.

Par ailleurs, le Conseil a approuvé formellement le lancement de la phase d'essai du programme ESPRIT, doté d'un budget total de 23 MECU pour 1983. Ce montant sera partagé équitablement entre le budget de la CE et l'industrie des technologies de l'information. A signaler que la délégation française a émis une réserve d'attente qui devrait être levée sans problème ce vendredi.

AMITIES

M. SANTARELLI



9 h. 45 COMEUR////

