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COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES  
GENERAL SECRETARIAT

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PRESS RELEASE

4764/83 (Presse 23)

826th Meeting of the Council

- Research -

Brussels, 8 February 1983

President: Mr Heinz RIESENHUBER,  
Federal Minister for Research and  
Technology of the  
Federal Republic of Germany



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

Germany:

Mr Heinz RIESENHUBER  
Federal Minister for Research  
and Technology

Greece:

Mr George LIANIS  
Minister for Research and  
Technology

Mr H-H. HAUNSCHILD  
State Secretary, Federal  
Ministry for Research and  
Technology

France:

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

Ireland:

Mr Eddie COLLINS  
Minister of State  
Ministry of Industry and  
Energy

Italy:

Mr Pier Luigi ROMITA  
Minister for Scientific  
Research

Luxembourg:

Mr Jean DONDELINGER  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative

Netherlands:

Mr G. van AARDENNE  
Deputy Prime Minister,  
Minister for Economic Affairs

United Kingdom:

Mr John MacGREGOR  
Parliamentary Secretary  
of State,  
Department of Industry

Mr R.B. NICHOLSON  
Government Chief Scientist  
in the Cabinet Office

For the Commission:

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

REVISION OF THE PROGRAMME OF THE JRC - THE SUPER SARA PROJECT

The Council proceeded to a full debate on the JRC and the future of the Super-SARA project. As a result of this the Council:

- confirmed that the JRC should continue to play a central role in the Community's research strategy, and that it should execute work over the period 1984-1987 of common interest on the basis of current resource levels;
- without at this stage reaching unanimity regarding either the continuation of the Super-SARA project or alternative programmes, requested the Commission to prepare detailed proposals for possible alternative activities at the Centre based on the broad lines indicated in the Commission's working document and including measures to improve the mobility of staff;
- agreed that the decision-making processes for the preparation, adoption and implementation of the JRC's programmes should be improved in order to ensure maximum efficiency and stability, and requested the Commission to make proposals on this point;
- agreed to meet again on 10 March 1983 at 10.00 a.m. and to reach definitive conclusions on the principal issues dealt with in its debate on the basis of the documentation already available and the proposals to be submitted by the Commission. The Commission undertook to submit these proposals by the end of February.

FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME 1984-1987

The Council held a full policy debate on the 1984-1987 framework programme submitted by the Commission in its communication of 21 December 1982 on a European scientific and technical strategy.

The Council gave a favourable reception to this initiative by the Commission, which is proposing for the first time a strategic framework programme designed to optimize the contribution by the European research and technology towards taking up the socio-economic challenges which the Community has to face.

The debate enabled Council members to comment on all major problems raised by the proposed framework programme. It revealed that the Council shares the Commission's fundamental aim, which is to encourage the Community's research and development efforts as a whole - at both national and Community levels - and to concentrate on achieving common aims to be decided on under an overall strategy.

The Council evolved certain guidelines for future work on the subject with a view to enabling it to take a decision on this first framework programme during the first half of 1983.

FAST II PROGRAMME

The Council held an initial policy debate on the Commission proposal for a second research programme on forecasting and assessment in science and technology 1983-1987 (FAST II).

The debate revealed that Member States considered the experience gained with FAST I programme to be generally positive. It also enabled certain guidelines to be evolved for conduct of the work with a view to the adoption of a decision on FAST II later in the year.

ACID RAIN

Having heard a statement by the German delegation on the problem of the effects of air pollution - acid rain - on forests, the Council took note that the Commission intended to organize a symposium this year in order to take stock of research work in progress at Community level and in the Member States.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Atomic question

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Decision adopting directives for the negotiation by the Commission with the Government of Canada of appropriate adjustments to the Euratom-Canada Agreement.

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