



COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES  
GENERAL SECRETARIAT



PRESS RELEASE

11129/85 (Presse 192)

1051st Council meeting

- Research -

Brussels, 10 December 1985

President: Mr Fernand BODEN  
Minister for Education  
of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg

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

Belgium:

Mr G. VERHOFSTADT                    Minister for Science Policy and  
Planning  
  
Mr L. BRIL                                State Secretary, Science Policy

Denmark:

Mr Jacob Esper LARSEN                Ambassador, Permanent Representation

Germany:

Mr Heinz RIESENHUBER                Federal Minister for Research and  
Technology

Greece:

Mr Kyriakos PAPAIOU                 Secretary-General, Research and  
Technology

France:

Mr Hubert CURIEN                     Minister for Research and Technology

Ireland:

Mr Edward COLLINS                    Minister of State, Department of  
Industry and Energy

Italy:

Mr Luigi GRANELLI                    Minister for the Co-ordination  
of Scientific and Technological  
Research

Luxembourg:

Mr Fernand BODEN                    Minister for Education

Netherlands:

Mr G.M.V. van AARDENNE             Minister for Economic Affairs

United Kingdom:

Mr Geoffrey PATTIE

Minister of State, Industry and  
Information Technology

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Commission:

Mr Karl-Heinz NARJES

Vice-President

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The following also attended as observers:

Spain:

Mr Juan Manuel ROJO ALAMINOS

State Secretary, Universities and  
Research

Portugal:

Mr Eduardo R. de ARANTES E  
OLIVEIRA

State Secretary, Scientific  
Research

DRAFT COUNCIL DECISION ADOPTING THE ESPRIT WORK PROGRAMME FOR 1986

The Council approved, in the official languages of the Communities, the Decision adopting the 1986 work programme for the European Strategic Programme for Research and Development in Information Technologies (ESPRIT).

RESEARCH PROGRAMMES ON MATERIALS AND ON THE ENVIRONMENT

Pending receipt of the European Parliament's Opinion on these two programmes, the Council held a detailed discussion on their general lines of approach.

The MATERIALS programme comprises four subprogrammes: Primary raw materials, Secondary raw materials, Wood as a renewable raw material, Advanced materials (EURAM). The ENVIRONMENT programme covers the following topics: Environment protection, Climatology (including natural hazards), and Major technological hazards.

After the discussion, and subject to the European Parliament's Opinion, the Council was able to reach agreement in principle on the financial and technical scale of the two programmes. The Council will look at both programmes again when it has received the European Parliament's Opinions.

PROGRAMME OF ASSISTANCE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF INDIGENOUS SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL RESEARCH CAPACITIES IN THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

In accordance with the undertaking given by the Council at its meeting on 4 June 1985 that it would examine the substance of the question before the end of the year, the Council, following discussion, invited the Commission to consider integrating into the revision of the STD programme a subsection dealing with the development of indigenous scientific and technical research capacities in the developing countries. The Council undertook to examine the Commission proposal in a positive light during 1986, taking into account, if appropriate, the possibility of seeking alternative sources of finance to fund this activity.

IRIS (INITIATIVE FOR RESEARCH IN INFORMATICS APPLIED TO SOCIETY)

At its meeting on 4 June 1985, the Council had noted that the Commission was to carry out studies of the topics raised in this initiative taken by the Italian Government in April 1985 and would be organizing a seminar on the subject in Venice at the beginning of December 1985.

Mr NARJES gave a report on the seminar proceedings, to which the Council members' reaction was largely positive.

The Council asked the Commission to complete the inventory of the initiatives existing in the Member States in this area by 1 March 1986, as a basis for considering the standardization measures which might be necessary and for defining the objectives and priorities of a future specific proposal covering informatics applied to society.

JOINT RESEARCH CENTRE (JRC) - PROGRESS REPORT ON THE MULTIANNUAL  
PROGRAMME 1984-1987

The Council discussed the progress of the current multiannual research programme at the Joint Research Centre on the basis of a statement made on the subject by Mr NARJES announcing in particular:

- the proposal in 1986 of a new multiannual programme to run from 1 January 1987;
- rigorous management measures to achieve savings in 1986 and 1987.

Following the discussions, the Council, having noted the Commission statement, asked it to provide all the necessary information for a detailed discussion of the question at a future Council meeting, bearing in mind the comments made by members of the Council in this respect.

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Bruxelles, le 9 decembre 1985

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NOTE BIO (85) 404 AUX BUREAUX NATIONAUX  
CC AUX MEMBRES DU GROUPE

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Conseil Recherche du 10.12.1985 a 11.00 (P. Vinther)

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pt. 2 Adoption du programme de travail 1986 pour ESPRIT.

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Il s'agit d'une question quasiment de routine. Tous les ans le Conseil doit prendre une decision concernant le programme de travail pour l'annee suivante, mais portant sur cinq ans. Vu le succes du programme ESPRIT jusqu'a present, le programme de travail represente une consolidation de ce qui a deja ete fait.

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pt. 3 & 4 Propositions de programmes de R&D dans les domaines "environnement" et "materiaux" transmis par la

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Commission au mois de juillet dernier. La proposition "environnement" porte sur trois programmes concernant la protection de l'environnement, la climatologie et les risques technologiques majeurs a realiser au cours de la periode 1986-1990. Budget total propose : 105 MECU (cf. P-62).

La proposition "materiaux" porte sur deux secteurs concernant les matieres premieres et les matieres avancees, a realiser dans la periode 1986-1989. Budget total propose : 110 MECU (cf. P-63).

Le P.E. n'a pas encore donne son avis sur les deux propositions. Le debat au Conseil devrait donc aboutir a une "orientation commune".

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pt. 5 Proposition d'un programme d'aide au developpement des capacites indigenes de recherche scientifique et technique des PVD.

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La proposition a deja ete presentee par la Commission en 1983 et debattue plusieurs fois au Conseil entretemps. En juin 1985 celui-ci a decide de discuter cette proposition quand au fond avant la fin de l'annee.

Budget total propose : 60 MECU.

La presidence du Conseil a propose au COREPER d'incorporer ce programme dans le programme communautaire existant : "Science et Technique au service du developpement (STD)", qui devra etre revise en 1986.

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pt. 5 IRIS : Initiative for Research into Informatica  
applied to Society

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Suite a cette initiative italienne le Conseil a, en juin  
dernier, invite la Commission a dresser un inventaire des  
actions dans la Communaute dans ce domaine. Cet inventaire  
a ete discute a Venise et le Vice-president Narjes va presenter  
les conclusions de ce seminaire aux ministres de la recherche.  
L'inventaire doit etre complete dans les prochains mois.


pt. 6. Etat d'execution du programme pluriannuel du CCR  
1984-1987

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Echanges de vues concernant la revision eventuelle de ce  
programme au cours de 1986.

Amities,

H. PAEMEN COMEUR ////

n.o. 



Brussels, 10 December 1985  
BIO NOTE (85) 404 suite 1 TO NATIONAL OFFICES

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RESEARCH COUNCIL (10.12.85) (P. Vinther)  
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The Spanish and Portuguese delegations both stressed that they were looking forward to participating in the ESPRIT programme from next year on, and the Italian delegation, after having congratulated the Commission on the results of the programme so far, called for the programme to be stepped up. The Greek delegation found that the management of the programme should be improved and that the Commission should justify the financing of individual projects as well as each country's participation in the programme in terms of funding. It would like to see the work programme adopted in principle and discussed further in the ESPRIT Management Committee (EMC).

Vice-President Narjes agreed that certain aspects of the programme could well be discussed further in the EMC, but he warned strongly against applying the principle of "fair return" to the ESPRIT programme which could effectively "kill" it. He recalled the positive conclusions of the recent mid-term review of the programme as well as the recommendation by the ESPRIT Panel (12 major European Information Technology companies) that the research effort in phase II of the ESPRIT should be tripled in comparison to phase I. Mr. Narjes drew attention to the amount of funding this would necessitate. The Work Programme 1986 was subsequently adopted.

Commission proposals for R&D programme in the fields of  
Environment and Materials  
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From the discussions in COREPER it had emerged that some delegations wanted to debate the two proposals at the same time, purely from a financial point of view. The French, British and German delegations having expressed reservations in COREPER on the funding of these two programmes, the Presidency inquired as to the status of these reservations. The French delegation maintained the link between the two programmes for which it considers a total budget of about 140 MECU to be the upper limit. The British delegation admitted the suitability of the subjects for Community research but found that a period of consolidation was indicated making a less ambitious environment research programme sufficient. It consequently proposed a budget for this programme of 60 MECU.

Also the German delegation could agree to the pertinence and importance of the proposed research subjects, but felt that a total budget for the two programmes of 140 MECU would be sufficient, perhaps with a slightly higher emphasis on environment than on materials.

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The Presidency stressed that there is no organic link between the two research subjects. He also pointed to the fact that the previous programmes had been provided with a budget in 1985 value of 75 MECU (environment) and 85 MECU (materials) respectively which apart from the inclusion of new areas such as major technological hazards means that the French and German proposals represent a significant reduction.

Mr. Narjes deplored the attitude of these three delegations and emphasised that some measure of inflation must be taken into consideration when fixing the budgets for the two programmes in order to make subsequent contract negotiations realistic. He regretted the linking of the two subjects as not objective and found that with the UK figure of 10 MECU for the Climatology programme this programme might as well be dropped altogether.

The remaining delegations could all accept the Commissions proposals including the funding, but most of them would be willing to agree to a compromise if the programmes could be approved in principle.

Given that "environment" most likely will be included in the Treaty of Rome the Presidency proceeded to propose a compromise which it felt could not be less than the budget for the present programmes. With about 80 MECU for environment R&D and about 90 MECU for materials R&D a compromise amount of 175 MECU ought to be acceptable to all delegations. Unfortunately the UK, French and German delegations were not able to revise their positions upwards whereas most of the other delegations could accept this figure as a strict minimum.

The Greek delegation deplored this reduction as contrary to the calls for increased environmental action in other fora. It could not go along with this compromise. Mr. Narjes regretted the somewhat fruitless discussion on inflation rates and stressed that possible cuts could not be applied proportionally. The Commission would have to reconsider which subjects could be left out. He also regretted that there was not much trace of the spirit of Luxembourg in this discussion.

The Research Ministers then adjourned for lunch during which they would discuss the results of the Luxembourg Summit and the Intergovernmental Conference as far as the European Technology Community is concerned.

Regards,

.. No. *JA*  
H. PAEMEN COMEUR ////

Brussels, 11 December 1985  
NOTE BIO (85) 404 (suite 2 and end) TO NATIONAL OFFICES  
CC TO MEMBERS OF THE GROUP

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RESEARCH COUNCIL, 10.12.1985 (P. Vinther)  
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DIS.

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COMPROMISE AGREEMENT (IN PRINCIPLE) ON FUNDING OF  
ENVIRONMENT AND MATERIALS R&D PROGRAMMES  
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The Council resumed after lunch (16h00) having worked out an agreement on the funding of the two programmes to the tune of 145 MECU, with 75 MECU for environmental research and 70 MECU for materials research. This compromise which is a far cry from the Commission's original proposal for a total budget of 215 MECU represents effectively a step backwards compared to spending on the current programmes covering these research topics. The Commission, who did not succeed in swinging the three opposing member states around to a more Community spirited position, will only be able to live with this compromise because the following rider was entered in the Council minutes:

"Le Conseil et la Commission conviennent que, dans le contexte de l'adoption du prochain programme-cadre, il sera procede a une reevaluation des programmes Environnement-Climatologie et Matieres premieres-Materiaux en vue de les renforcer, en particulier pour les sous-programmes Matieres premieres primaires, Bois et Materiaux avances.

En outre, le Conseil prend note de l'intention de la Commission de presenter des propositions d'autres actions de R&D, notamment dans le secteur de l'agriculture et des forets, actions qui renforceront le present programme.

Par ailleurs, le Conseil prend note que la Commission va recommander au Conseil Industrie d'atteindre rapidement un accord sur le programme Exploration miniere qui lui est deja soumis."

The following provisional distribution of the funds on the various sub-programmes was also agreed:

ENVIRONMENT

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Environmental protection                    55 MECU  
Climatology                                    17 MECU  
Major technological hazards                3 MECU  
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75 MECU

(This last sub-programme is to be carried out under the auspices of the Joint Research Center (JRC)).

MATERIALS

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Primary raw materials                    20 MECU  
Secondary raw materials                 10 MECU  
Wood as a renewable raw material        10 MECU  
Advanced materials                        30 MECU  
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70 MECU

As far as staff is concerned it was agreed that status quo should be maintained (same level as for current programmes).

The European Parliament has still to express its opinion on the two proposals (probably in February 1986) and only then will the Council be in a position to formally adopt the two decisions at a subsequent meeting.

END DIS.

PROPOSAL FOR A DECISION ON THE ADOPTION OF A PROGRAMME OF ASSISTANCE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF INDIGENOUS SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL RESEARCH CAPACITIES IN THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

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Following a brief discussion the Council adopted the following declaration previously worked out by the COREPÉR :

"Le Conseil invite la Commission a reflechir sur l'integration, dans la revision du programme STD, d'une sous-section relative au developpement des capacites endogenes de recherche scientifique et technique dans les pays en voie de developpement. Le Conseil s'engage a examiner dans un esprit positif, la proposition de la Commission au cours de 1986 en tenant compte le cas echeant de la possibilite de rechercher des sources alternatives de fonds pour financer cette action."

IRIS

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Mr. Narjes presented the conclusions of the recent Venice seminar on IRIS to the Research Ministers who reacted positively to this initiative. The Commission was asked to complete the established inventory by 1 March 1986 and invited to present concrete proposals for action later in 1986.

JOINT RESEARCH CENTER

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The Board of Governors of the Joint Research Center had wished that it be brought to the attention of the Council that at the current rate of spending the JRC budget would not suffice to finance the operation of the Center in 1987, the last year of the current multi-annual programme for JRC.

Certain delegations voiced their surprise as to this apparent "overspending" by the Commission which they found should have been brought before the Council directly instead of leaving it to "chance".

On behalf of the Commission, Mr Narjes rejected the idea of overspending and pointed to the fact that the 1983 decision adopting the JRC multiannual programme does not contain any provision for adapting the JRC budget (specific appropriations) in accordance with the erosion of purchasing power. The situation had furthermore been clearly indicated for the last three years in the context of the annual budget procedure. He did, however, propose savings on the JRC budget for 1986 and 1987 of about 10 MECU each which should reduce the "deficit" for 1987 to less than 20 MECU. Mr Narjes also recalled art 3 of the programme decision which provides for either a revision of the programme or proposal of a new programme during the third year (1986) should problems of the above nature occur.

Several delegations invited the Commission to provide the Council with further details and the Presidency concluded to this effect so that the matter can be examined further at the next Council meeting.

During the ensuing press conference the Council President explained that the discussion of the results of the Luxembourg summit concerning technology had been very brief but that it was felt that a more solid legal base for R&D action had been established.

Mr Narjes voiced the Commission's sentiment that technology now was on an equal footing with other major Community policies in the Treaty, and he was confident that it should now be easier to reach agreement on the next framework R&D programme.

Regards,

*no GA*  
H. PAEMEN, COMEUR////