COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

GENERAL SECRETARIAT

PRESS RELEASE

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1305th meeting of the Council

- Research -

Brussels, 14 March 1989

President: Mr Javier SOLANA MADARIAGA
Minister for Education and
Science of the Kingdom of Spain

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

Belgium:

Mr H. SCHILTZ	Minister for the Budget and for Science Policy

Denmark:

Mr Bertel HAARDER	Minister for Education and Science

Germany:

Mr Heinz RIESENHUBER	Federal Minister for Research and Technology

Greece:

Mr G. PAPATHEODOROU	Secretary-General, Ministry of Industry, Energy and Technology

Spain:

Mr Javier SOLANA MADARIAGA	Minister for Education and Science
Mr Juan Manuel ROJO ALAMINOS	State Secretary for the Universities and Research

France:

Mr Hubert CURIEN	Minister for Research and Technology

Ireland:

Mr Sean McCARTHY	Minister of State at the Department of Industry and Commerce, with responsibility for Science and Technology

Italy:

Mr Pietro CALAMIA	Ambassador, Permanent Representative

Luxembourg:

Mr Fernand BODEN	Minister for Education

Netherlands:

Mr P.C. NIEMAN	Ambassador, Permanent Representative

Portugal:

Mr Luis VALENTE DE OLIVEIRA	Minister for Planning and Territorial Administration
Mr José SUCENA PAIVA	State Secretary for Science and Technology

United Kingdom:

Mr Tony NEWTON	Minister for Trade and Industry

Commission:

Mr Filippo Maria PANDOLFI	Vice-President

FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME FOR RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES

Following the introductory remarks made by the President of the Council and by Mr PANDOLFI, Vice-President of the Commission, the Council held a policy debate on the development of Community research and the possibility of revising the R & TD framework programme.

This highly constructive debate enabled the delegations to describe their basic approach to this matter and to indicate certain priorities.

Winding up the exchange of views, the President asked the Commission to take account of the remarks made by the delegations in the discussion when finalizing its document on the state of science and technology in Europe.

The Council will continue discussing this matter at its next meeting in June on the basis of this document and of a critical report which the Commission had asked five eminent scientists to produce [1].

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(1) Mr Pierre AIGRAIN, Scientific Advisor to the Chairman of the THOMSON Group,
Sir Geoffrey ALLEN of Unilever Research,
Mr Eduardo Romano DE ARANTES-E-OLIVEIRA, President of the C.E.S.E.,
Mr Umberto COLOMBO, Chairman of the ENEA and Mr Hubert S. MARKL, Chairman of the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft.

JOULE PROGRAMME - NON-NUCLEAR ENERGIES AND RATIONAL USE OF ENERGY 1989-1992)

The Council adopted a specific research and technological development programme in the field of energy - non-nuclear energies and rational use of energy (1989-1992) - JOULE.

This programme will run for a period of three years and three months from 1 January 1989. The funds estimated necessary to implement the programme amount to ECU 122 million, including expenditure on a staff of 34.

The programme is designed to study all sources of non-nuclear energy. It is divided up into four subsidiary programmes:

- Models for the study of energy assessments and their relation to the environment

- Rational use of energy: energy conservation in end-use sectors, transformation and storage of energy

- Energy from fossil sources: hydrocarbons and solid fuels

- Renewable energies: solar, wind, hydraulic, biomass and geothermal.

The Commission will be responsible for implementing the programme. It will be assisted by an advisory committee comprising representatives of the Member States.

During the second year of implementation, the Commission will review the programme in order to propose any amendments to or extension thereof.

Programme projects are open to organizations or firms from third countries with which Framework Agreements for scientific and technological co-operation have been concluded.

Details of this programme were given when the common position was adopted on 15 December 1988 (see Press Release 10221/88 of 15.XII.88).

INDUSTRIAL MANUFACTURING TECHNOLOGIES AND ADVANCED MATERIALS APPLICATIONS - BRITE/EURAM PROGRAMME (1989-1992)

The Council adopted a specific research and technological development programme in industrial manufacturing technologies and advanced materials applications (BRITE/EURAM).

This pre-competitive research programme will hinge on the following five areas:

- Advanced materials technologies

- Design methodology and quality assurance for products and processes

- Application of manufacturing technologies

- Technologies for manufacturing processes

- Specific activities relating to aeronautics.

It involves the development of new, improved materials and material processing to augment possible applications, except those directly related to it covered by the ESPRIT programme, in particular the following:

- Metallic materials and metallic matrix composites

- Materials for magnetic, optical, electrical and superconducting applications.

- Polymers and organic matrix composites

- Materials for specialized applications.

The programme will last for a period of four years commencing 1 January 1989 with funding of 499,5 MECU - including expenditure on staff which will be restricted to 4,5% of the Community contribution. That sum represents an increase of 60 MECU over the initial proposal.

464,5 MECU of the total amount will be used for financing the first four areas of research which initially had been all that had been proposed under BRITE/EURAM. 35 MECU will be used for funding research into aeronautics, which has been added to the other four areas of research initially stipulated as a fifth section, to last for no more than two years.

The Commission will be responsible for implementing the programme; it will be assisted by a Committee comprising representatives of the Member States which will have an advisory role for the first four areas of research. For aeronautics research, the Commission may take the measures proposed once it has a favourable opinion from the Committee; failing that, it will have to submit a proposal to the Council.

During the third year of implementation, the Commission will review the programme in order to propose any amendments to or extension thereof; for aeronautics, the review will be conducted in the second year.

Programme projects are open to organizations or firms in third countries with which Framework Agreements for scientific and technical co-operation have been concluded.

The main points of the programme were described when the common position was adopted on 15 December 1988 (see Press Release 10221/88 of 15.XII.88).

ACCESS TO LARGE-SCALE FACILITIES

The Council adopted the experimental Community plan to support and facilitate access to large-scale scientific facilities of European interest (1989-1992).

Under this plan, which has been allocated a 4-year 30 MECU budget (and a staff of 3), the Community will provide financial support to facilitate access to large-scale scientific facilities situated in the European Community and thereby promote their exploitation. It aims, inter alia, to help improve competitiveness in the field of research and at the same time to strengthen economic and social cohesion.

The Commission will be responsible for implementing the plan, with the assistance of an Advisory Committee composed of representatives of the Member States.

The Commission and the recipient organization or institution will decide on funding to cover the costs incurred in improving installations, or in their use by foreign researchers. The criteria for obtaining Community support are:

- Quality of the facility

- Interest shown by potential users

- Cost/benefit ratio of Community support

- Value to the Community.

The objectives and procedural arrangements of the plan were set out when the common position was adopted on 17 November 1988 (Press Release 9343/88 of 17.XI.88).

DECOMMISSIONING OF NUCLEAR INSTALLATIONS

The Council adopted a research and technological development programme for the European Atomic Energy Community in the field of the decommissioning of nuclear installations (1989-1993).

The aim of this Euratom programme, which has funding of ECU 31,5 million,, including expenditure for a staff of five, is the joint development of a system of management of nuclear installations finally shut down and of the radioactive wastes produced in their dismantling which, at its various stages, will provide mankind and the environment with the best protection possible. The programme will involve demonstration of relevant technologies.

The programme covers the following areas (with indicative allocation of funds):

	(in millions of ecus)
A. Research and development projects concerning the following subjects:	8,4
No 1: Long-term integrity of buildings and systems	
No 2: Decontamination for decommissioning purposes	

No 3: Dismantling techniques

No 4: Treatment of specific waste materials: steel, concrete and graphite

No 5: Qualification and adaptation of remote-controlled semi-autonomous manipulator systems

No 6: Estimation of the quantities of radioactive wastes arising from the decommissioning of nuclear installations in the Community

B. Identification of guiding principles relating to: 1,1

- the design and operation of nuclear installations with a view to simplifying their subsequent decommissioning;

- the decommissioning operations with a view to making occupational radiation exposures as low as reasonably achievable;

- the technical elements of a Community policy in this field.

C. Testing of new techniques in practice:

- Pilot Projects	16,6	
- Alternative tests	4,3	
- Staff secondment	1,1	
		22

TOTAL (of which ECU 3 million relate to staff and administrative costs) 31,5

MACHINE TRANSLATION SYSTEM OF ADVANCED DESIGN - EUROTRA

The Council adopted a common position on a specific programme for the completion of a machine translation system of advanced design (EUROTRA), which will be forwarded to the European Parliament under the co-operation procedure.

To complete this system, the 1982 decision, which was amended in 1986, will be extended until 30 June 1990 and funding raised from ECU 7 to 12,5 million.

The third phase of this programme which was launched in 1982 is to culminate in an operational system prototype for all the official languages of the Communities - for a limited subject field and for a limited number of text types - which would be the basis for subsequent development on an industrial scale.

STATISTICAL EXPERT SYSTEMS - DOSES PROGRAMME

The Council adopted a common position on a specific multiannual programme for the research and development of statistical expert systems (DOSES).

This programme will cover a period of four years and will have funding of ECU 4 million, including expenditure for a staff of one.

The actions address the exploitation of advanced information technologies in the field of statistics: in particular, the application of expert systems technology to the whole chain of statistical data processing.

The actions are oriented to meet Member States' needs for the development of knowledge and expert systems rules, which can constitute the base for the development of expert systems with a Community dimension in the various domains of the statistics field.

The programme consists of two parts: Part I comprises the organization of co-ordinated projects which deal with the co-ordination at Community level of activities which are of general interest to the Member States and satisfy specific criteria.

Part II comprises research and development projects - with shared funding - regarded as meriting priority in the field of official statistics. It is subdivided into four parts:

- Vertical study: Preparation of a complete system for automated information processing, from collection to dissemination, in a specific field (as a prototype for other fields and a reference framework for the other themes);
- Documentation of data and statistical methods;
- Access to statistical information;
- Forecasting.

FOOD-LINKED AGRO-INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH - FLAIR PROGRAMME

The Council adopted a common position on a research and technological development programme in the field of food sciences and technology (1989-1993)(FLAIR) with a view to forwarding it to the European Parliament under the co-operation procedure.

This programme will cover a period of four years from 1 July 1989. Funding will be ECU 25 million, including expenditure for a staff of five.

The objectives of the programme are to contribute to Europe's competitiveness in the food industry, to the improvement of food safety and quality for the consumer and to the strengthening of food science and technology in Europe. The programme will contribute in the medium and longer terms to enhancing Europe's competitiveness in the economic activities which will be based on these developments and to strengthening economic and social cohesion in the Community.

The programme is targeted at complementing existing initiatives in Member States through the development of further collaborative linkages between different research groups and industries, and shall concentrate on the interface between food processing, food distribution and the consumer. The consumer demands for more natural and healthy foods, with greater diversity, shall be met by the combined efforts of researchers and the food industry.

This should contribute also to a better control of processes (including chemical treatment and additives) and a reduction of harmful residues while safeguarding food safety and quality.

The projects of the programme will cover three sectors:

- Assessment and enhancement of food quality and diversity

- Food hygiene, safety and toxicological aspects

- Nutrition and wholesomeness aspects.

MARINE SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY - MAST PROGRAMME

The Council adopted a common position on a specific research and technological development programme in the field of marine science and technology (MAST) with a view to forwarding it to the European Parliament under the co-operation procedure.

This programme will cover a period of three years with funding of ECU 50 million, including expenditure for a staff of 13. Of this funding:

- 30 to 35% will be set aside for basic and applied marine science

- 15 to 20% will be set aside for coastal zone science and engineering

- 30 to 35% for marine technology

- 10 to 15% for supporting initiatives.

The objectives of the MAST programme are as follows:

- to contribute to better knowledge of the marine environment in order to improve its management and protection and to predict change;

- to encourage the development of new technologies for the exploration, protection and exploitation of marine resources;

- to improve co-ordination and co-operation and the exchange of information amongst national marine R&D programmes in the Member States, and to help increase the effectiveness of these programmes through better use of research facilities;

- to strengthen industrial competitiveness in the relevant sectors;

- to contribute to the economic and social cohesion of the Community by encouraging the involvement of scientists from all Member States, thereby stimulating technology transfer and the joint and more efficient use of facilities and simultaneously strengthening the scientific and technological base of the Community, whilst being consistent with the pursuit of scientific and technical excellence;

- to provide the technical basis for, and encourage the development of, common norms, standards and design guidelines, in view of the completion of the internal market in 1992;

- to facilitate training and exchange of personnel;

- to assist as far as possible Community participation in international ocean programmes.

STRATEGIC ANALYSIS, FORECASTING AND EVALUATION IN MATTERS OF RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY - MONITOR PROGRAMME

The Council adopted a common position on a Community programme in the field of strategic analysis, forecasting and evaluation in matters of research and technology (MONITOR), with a view to forwarding it to the European Parliament under the co-operation procedure.

This programme will cover a period of four years with a funding of ECU 22 million, including expenditure for a staff of 25.

The purpose of the programme is to be instrumental in identifying new directions and priorities for Community research and technological development policy and to help show more clearly the relationships between R&D and the other common policies.

The programme involves factual and strategic analysis and forecasting relating to the scientific and technological environment and its interaction with economic and social developments.

The programme comprises three activities. The internal indicative allocation of the funds estimated as necessary for each of these activities is as follows:

	(million ecu)
- Strategic and impact analysis (SAST)	3,1
- FAST forecasting	4,5
- Research and studies to improve methodologies and effectiveness of evaluation of R&D activitis (SPEAR)	1,8
- Still to be allocated	0,7
- Staff costs	9,6
- Administrative costs	2,3
TOTAL	22,0

DISSEMINATION AND UTILIZATION OF SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL RESEARCH - VALUE PROGRAMME

The Council adopted a common position on a specific programme for the dissemination and utilization of scientific and technological research results (1989-1992) (VALUE programme) with a view to forwarding it to the European Parliament under the co-operation procedure.

This programme will be adopted for an initial period of four years with funding of ECU 38 million, including expenditure for a staff of 20. The programme will comprise two sub-programmes concerning:

- the dissemination and utilization of the results of Community R&TD activities

- computer communication networks.

Below is an indicative breakdown of appropriations between the various lines of action:

	million ecu
Sub-programme I: Dissemination and utilization of the results of Community RTD activities	
1.1. Collection and dissemination of information concerning existing or planned Community RTD programmes	6,0
1.2. Identification, characterization and screening of results of Community RTD activities	2,0
1.3. Actions on legal protection of results (patents, etc.)	2,0
1.4. Dissemination of results	8,0
1.5. Promotion of the exploitation of results	10,0
Sub-total	28,0

Sub-programme II: Computer commmunication networks

2.1.	General support to the development of Computer communications networks in the field of RTD	
	- Technical assistance and support to the RARE Association (Réseaux Associés pour la Recherche Européenne) particularly its pan-European projects (e.g. in the message handling and files transfer areas), to the implementation phase of the EUREKA COSINE project, and to Member States wishing to develop or adapt networks for the purposes of this programme	6,0
2.2.	Work on requirements for confidentiality and integrity of Community RTD information	2,0
	Sub-total	8,0
	To be allocated after mid-term programme review	2,0
	TOTAL	38,0

Bruxelles, le 13 mars 1989

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NOTE BIO(89) 85 AUX BUREAUX NATIONAUX
CC. AUX MEMBRES DU SERVICE DU PORTE-PAROLE

CONSEIL RECHERCHE (W. HELIN)

1. Premier débat des Douze sur l'avenir de la R&D en Europe

A l'initiative du Vice-Président Pandolfi et de la Présidence espagnole, les Douze se pencheront mardi à Bruxelles sur les aspects stratégiques de la R&D européenne.
Lorsque le programme-cadre de la recherche au niveau de la Communauté fut adopté pour la période 1987-1991, la décision fut prise de faire le point de l'activité à mi-parcours, en 1989.
L'une des questions centrales est de vérifier en particulier si ce programme a eu les effets escomptés sur l'amélioration de la compétitivité de l'industrie, de la qualité de la vie, et de vérifier par ailleurs son impact sur la cohésion économique et sociale de la Communauté.

Au vu de cette analyse, les Douze devront décider soit de laisser se dérouler le programme-cadre comme convenu, soit de lancer un nouveau concept stratégique jusqu'au milieu des années '90.
Des premières indications globales devraient sortir, le cas échéant, du premier débat de fond ce mardi.
Rappelons que lors de sa première conférence de presse, le 21 février dernier, le Vice-Président Pandolfi a indiqué les grandes lignes du concept stratégique qu'il souhaite faire adopter politiquement avant la fin de 1989 (voir note BIO(89) 59 du 21.2.89).

2. Feu vert pour une série de programmes spécifiques :

30 millions d'ECU pour mieux rentabiliser les grands équipements scientifiques (1989-1992)

Les Douze vont décider de soutenir financièrement l'accès des chercheurs européens aux grands équipements et installations scientifiques répartis dans la Communauté. Bon nombre de ces centres et installations sont sous-utilisés ou font double emploi. Citons par exemple les synchrotrons, les cyclotrons, les navires océanographiques, les centres de primates, l'équipement de radioastronomie.
L'idée centrale est simple et judicieuse, selon la Commission européenne : faciliter l'accès à ces installations permettra d'augmenter le rendement économique. Ceci ouvre des perspectives intéressantes non seulement pour les chercheurs de pays ne disposant pas d'équipements de ce genre, mais également pour les P.M.E.
La priorité sera d'ailleurs accordée aux chercheurs de pays européens autres que le pays où se situe l'installation : le programme encouragera donc également la mobilité des chercheurs européens sur l'ensemble du territoire de la Communauté.

La recherche au service du renouveau technologique des secteurs industriels traditionnels : 500 millions d'ECU pour BRITE/EURAM (1989- 1992)

L'industrie manufacturière traditionnelle représente, avec quelque 41 millions d'emplois dans la Communauté, environ 30% de la richesse générée par l'économie européenne.
Depuis 1985, la Communauté s'est efforcée de promouvoir la modernisation et donc la compétitivité mondiale de ces secteurs (automobile, textiles, construction navale, chimie, machines-outils, construction, etc.) en les faisant bénéficier de travaux de R&D destinés à faire les technologies de pointe dans leurs activités.

Les Douze vont donner le feu vert à une nouvelle phase de ces programmes, en fusionnant comme l'a proposé la Commission européenne en juillet 1988, les programmes BRITE (Basic Research in Industrial Technology for Europe, lancé en 1985) et EURAM (European Research in Advanced Materials, lancé en 1986) et en étendant leur champ d'application à l'aéronautique. Ce dernier secteur fait ainsi son "entrée" dans la R&D de la Communauté, avec une enveloppe de 60 millions d'ECU dans le financement global à charge du budget de la Communauté de 500 millions d'ECU. Dans le cas de l'aéronautique, il s'agira d'assurer également la complémentarité avec des programmes nationaux et avec Eureka.

Le programme bénéficiera d'un soutien financier équivalent des industriels participants, ce qui portera le budget total à 1 milliard d'ECU environ pour les années 1989-1992.

BRITE/EURAM englobe des activités de R&D très étendues :

- matériaux avancés (application optiques, magnétiques, électriques et supraconductivité, céramiques, polymères recyclables, etc.);

- amélioration de la qualité des produits et des procédés (produits plus performants, plus fiables, respectant l'environnement et utilisant moins d'énergie);

- technologies de fabrication (en complément de certaines activités du programme ESPRIT);

- traitement de surface, amélioration de méthodes de montage et d'assemblage;

- aéronautique (aérodynamique, acoustique, recherche sur la capacité de l'"avion tout technique", systèmes de propulsion));

A signaler, également, qu'au total des 500 millions d'ECU à charge du budget de la Communauté, quelques 22 millions d'ECU pourront servir à financer des primes au service de PME afin qu'elles puissent établir la faisabilité d'un appareil, d'un procédé ou d'un concept et renforcer leur position lorsqu'elles recherchent un partenaire.

JOULE : 122 millions d'ECU pour la R&D dans le secteur de l'énergie (1989-1992)

Ce programme (Joint Opportunities for Unconventional and Long-term Energy Supply) de R&D a pour objectif à la fois de rendre l'utilisation de l'énergie "traditionnelle" non nucléaire plus acceptable pour l'environnement, de contribuer à réduire le gaspillage d'énergie, et à rendre les énergies dites "alternatives" (éolienne, solaire, biomasse, géothermique) plus compétitives.

La R&D pour assurer le déclassement de centrales nucléaires

Les Ministres de la Recherche des Douze vont donner leur aval définitif à un programme proposé en juillet 1988 par la Commission européenne pour affiner la R&D et tester en pratique les techniques de démantèlement de centrales nucléaires déclassées.

En tout, quelque 60 millions d'ECU sur cinq ans (1989-1993) seront investis dans ce domaine (dont un peu plus de la moitié seront financés par la Communauté) où la Communauté a été présente depuis dix ans.

En fait, il s'agit de maintenir la sécurité nucléaire et la protection contre le rayonnement dans des installations définitivement arrêtées, jusqu'au moment, soit de la décroissance de la radioactivité à un niveau normal, soit de l'enlèvement des matières radioactives du site en question.

Cette activité de R&D et de projets-pilotes est d'autant plus importante que les opérations de déclassement de sites nucléaires (centrales, ou centres de retraitement du combustible) seront de plus en plus nombreuses. En effet, lorsque la Communauté lança le premier programme du genre, en 1979, seules 5 centrales avaient été fermées définitivement; aujourd'hui on en compte 17 et elles seront une cinquantaine à être "déclassées" en l'an 2000.

A signaler en particulier quatre projets-pilotes qui concernent les sites de Sellafield (Royaume-Uni), Gundremmingen (RFA), Mol (Belgique) et La Hague (France).

Amities,

C.D. EHLERMANN

p.o.

Bruxelles, le 14 mars 1989

NOTE BIO(89) 85 (suite et fin)AUX BUREAUX NATIONAUX
CC. AUX MEMBRES DU SERVICE DU PORTE-PAROLE

CONSEIL RECHERCHE (W. Hélin)

Une majorité de gouvernements sont en faveur d'un nouveau programme-cadre de la R&D de la Communauté,comme le suggère la Commission Européenne,qui tienne compte des besoins stratégiques nouveaux (environnement, santé,etc) et qui puisse soutenir davantage encore la compétitivité de l'industrie européenne sur l'échiquier mondial.

Tel est le principal enseignement du premier débat que les Douze ont entrepris ce mardi à Bruxelles, à l'initiative de la Présidence espagnole et du Vice-Président Pandolfi.

Ce dernier a indiqué que d'ici à la prochaine réunion des Ministres de la Recherche,le 6 juin 1989, la Commission Européenne soumettra deux documents aux Douze :

- une synthèse commentée sur l'état de la science et de la technologie dans la Communauté Européenne;

- une évaluation indépendante, faite par cinq "Sages", des actions menées en matière de stratégie de R&D jusqu'ici, sous le programme-cadre 1987-1991.

M. Pandolfi a confirmé qu'il espérait faire adopter politiquement le nouveau concept stratégique de R&D pour la Communauté , sous présidence française, dans la deuxième moitié de 1989.
Dans ce cas, un nouveau programme-cadre pluriannuel pourrait prendre la relève de l'actuel programme(1987-1991) bien avant la fin de celui-ci.

Pour ce premier débat, M. Pandolfi a souligné que les Douze devraient orienter leurs débats selon six points cruciaux :

1. la R&D au niveau de la Communauté doit continuer à s'adresser au domaine " pré-compétitif ". Le "seuil du marché" ne devra pas être transgressé.
Ceci n'exclut pas une intervention communautaire dégressive, plus l'on s'approche de ce "seuil du marché" (p. ex. la phase de recherche dite "pré-industrielle",qui comprend des projets-pilotes et de démonstration).

2. la concentration sur quelques thèmes stratégiques. La Communauté doit privilégier une approche horizontale qui tienne compte en priorité des technologies dites "diffusantes", c'est-à-dire les technologies qui traversent toute une série d'activités industrielles, traditionnelles et nouvelles.

3. la coopération avec d'autres programmes (Eurêka , programmes nationaux et internationaux)

4. la R&D dite " pré-normative ", à savoir celle qui ouvre la voie à des normes et standards européens (p. ex. dans le domaine de l'environnement)

5. le soutien à la communauté scientifique européenne : celle-ci doit être considérée comme un élément capital du patrimoine européen ;

6. la gestion décentralisée : s'il est clair que le "monitoring" permanent des activités de R&D de la Communauté doit être réalisé par les services de la Commission Européenne, en revanche, l'on peut imaginer de décentraliser le "management" sur le terrain.

M. Pandolfi a confirmé au Conseil et face à la presse ensuite, que les questions liées au financement, à la durée et au caractère même du futur concept stratégique de R&D ne pourront être abordées qu'une fois les priorités et les besoins identifiés par les Douze et la Commission Européenne. Nous parlerons d'argent, mais APRES , a dit M. Pandolfi à quelques journalistes à l'issue du Conseil.

En réponse à une question de la presse concernant le rôle du Centre commun de recherche dans ce concept, M. Pandolfi a indiqué que le CCR devrait continuer à avoir une place de choix dans le secteur de la R&D "prénormative". Celui-ci comprend des secteurs très importants tels que :

- la sécurité nucléaire;
- l'analyse des méthodes de production industrielle et leur impact sur l'environnement et la santé ;
- la sécurité de nouveaux matériaux;

mais également, a conclu M. Pandolfi,et en général, le CCR sera à même de jouer un rôle dans tous les domaines pour lesquels existent des réglementations européennes. Ainsi,l'agriculture pourrait être un de ces domaines privilégiés : grâce aux moyens de télédétection,la Communauté pourrait disposer d'un bilan annuel exact des différentes cultures agricoles et donc participer activement à contrecarrer les fraudes.

Amitiés,

C.D.EHLERMANN