

PRESS RELEASE

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1343rd meeting of the Council

- RESEARCH -

Brussels, 18 September 1989

President: Mr Hubert CURIEN
Minister for Research
and Technology
of the French Republic

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

Belgium:

Mr Pierre CHEVALIER State Secretary for Science Policy, attached
to the Minister for Science Policy

Denmark:

Mr Esper LARSEN Ambassador, Permanent Representative

Germany:

Mr Heinz RIESENHUBER Federal Minister for Research and Technology

Greece:

Mr Michail PAPAKONSTANTINOU Minister for 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 Michael SMITH Minister for Science and Technology

Italy:

Mr Antonio RUBERTI Minister for Universities, Scientific Research
and Technology

Luxembourg:

Mr René STEICHEN Minister responsible for Cultural Affairs and
Scientific Research

Netherlands:

Mr R.W. de KORTE Minister for Economic Affairs

Portugal:

Mr Luis VALENTE DE OLIVEIRA Minister for Planning and
Territorial Administration

United Kingdom:

Mr Douglas HOGG Minister for Industry and Enterprise

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Commission:

Mr Mario PANDOLFI Vice-President

FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME FOR RESEARCH AND
TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT (1990-1994)

The Council held a detailed policy discussion on the proposal for a Decision which the Commission submitted to it in August concerning a new framework programme of Community activities in the field of research and technological development for the period 1990 to 1994.

In order to set the direction of the debate, the President had put a number of questions to the Council concerning:

- the nature of the new five-year framework programme and how it linked in with the preceding programme;
- the interlinking of the scientific and technical programming with the financial data in the inter-institutional agreement;
- the dual decision mechanism proposed for each of the specific programmes in connection with the review of the framework programme to take place in 1992;
- the structure of the framework programme covering a limited number of specific programmes and the responsibilities which should therefore devolve upon the Committees responsible for assisting the Commission in implementing these programmes;
- the measures proposed for the dissemination and exploitation of research results.

At the close of the debate, the President noted that the discussions had been most fruitful and that delegations were unanimous in wishing to progress towards a decision defining the new framework programme for the period 1990 to 1994, on the understanding that the programme would be revised in 1992 in order to

determine precisely what action should be taken in 1993 to 1994, in accordance with the same decision-making rules as had been adopted for the initial framework programme, and in compliance with the budgetary procedure.

The President also pointed out that the debate had highlighted a number of points which needed to be examined in greater depth, namely:

- concentration on six lines of activities requiring additional information on the content and financial breakdown of these activities;
- the need to ensure continuity between the specific programmes currently under way (37) and those arising out of the new framework programme;
- the scope of the revision of the framework programme in 1992;
- the improvements to be made to programme management;
- the role of the framework programme from the point of view of the aim of economic cohesion within the Community and the need to ensure the participation of small and medium-sized undertakings and of universities and research centres at every level.

Regarding these problems, the Council noted that the Commission would be submitting two working documents in time for the next meeting at the beginning of October of the Scientific and Technical Research Committee (CREST) giving

- its written reactions to the evaluation report concerning the current framework programme presented by five independent experts

and

- additional information on the content and indicative breakdown of the financial amounts deemed necessary for the six activities proposed.

In conclusion, with a view to preparing its discussion on the subject on 17 October 1989 the Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to examine the budgetary and institutional aspects in depth and instructed CREST to examine the scientific and technical aspects.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONSRelations with the EFTA countries

The Council adopted the Regulations on the implementation of Decisions No 1/89 and No 2/89 of the EEC-EFTA Joint Committees amending Protocol No 3 concerning the definition of the concept of originating products and methods of administrative co-operation and establishing provisions for the implementation of the Joint Declaration annexed to Decision No 1/88 of the EEC-EFTA Joint Committees.

Environment

The Council adopted the Decision authorizing the Commission to take part, on behalf of the Community, in the negotiations on the adoption by the International Commission for the Protection of the Rhine against Pollution of draft Recommendations to the Contracting Parties intended to supplement, in respect of certain organochlorine compounds, Annex IV to the Convention for the Protection of the Rhine against Chemical Pollution.

Appointments

The Council replaced:

- a member of the European Social Fund Committee

- a member of the Advisory Committee on the Training of Midwives.