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GENERAL SECRETARIAT

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1468th Council meeting

- RESEARCH -

Brussels, 21 December 1990

President: Mr Antonio RUBERTI,
Minister for Scientific
Research and Technology

of the Italian Republic

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Italy:

Mr Antonio RUBERTI

Minister for Scientific Research
and Technology

Mr Learco SAPORITO

State Secretary for Scientific Research and
Technology

Luxembourg:

Mr René STEICHEN

Minister for Scientific Research

Netherlands:

Mr P.C. NIEMAN

Ambassador, Permanent Representative

Portugal:

Mr Luis VALENTE DE OLIVEIRA

Minister for Planning and Territorial
Administration

Mr José Pedro SUCENA PAIVA

State Secretary for Science
and Technology

United Kingdom:

Lord HESKETH

Minister for Industry and Enterprise

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Commission:

Mr Filippo Maria PANDOLFI

Vice-President

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IMPLEMENTATION OF THE THIRD R&D FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME (1990-1994) - SPECIFIC R&D PROGRAMMES

With a view to implementation of the third framework programme for activities in the field of research and technological development (1990-1994) specifying the activities to be pursued for developing the scientific knowledge and technical know-how needed by the Community, the Council discussed 4 common positions concerning specific programmes covering the following areas:

- marine science and technology
- telematic systems in areas of general interest
- environment
- life sciences and technologies for developing countries.

These programmes account for ECU 850 million out of a total of ECU 5 700 million for the framework programme and share the following features:

- = they are managed by the Commission, assisted by a Committee composed of representatives of the Member States which decides on projects above a certain financial threshold and is informed of projects below that threshold;
- = the Commission negotiates, under Article 130m of the Treaty, agreements with primarily European third countries enabling them to participate either in the whole programme or in some of the activities undertaken;
- = the Council, acting on a proposal from the Commission, decides on centralized action to disseminate and exploit results achieved under the programmes.

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- Specific programme concerning marine science and technology

The Council adopted a common position on the specific R&TD programme in the field of marine science and technology (1990-1994).

The amount deemed necessary to implement this programme is ECU 102,96 million, including ECU 10 million for administrative and staff expenditure.

The programme's key aims are given below, with an indicative breakdown of the amount involved:

Area 1: Marine science, the main aims being: ECU 37,06 million

- Better understanding of marine processes
- Improvement of the ability to predict change
- Establishment of the scientific basis for management, protection and exploitation of the marine environment.

Area 2: Coastal zone science and engineering ECU 15,40 million

- The objectives, which build on projects in the MAST 1989-1992 pilot phase, are:
 - to gain an increased level of understanding of marine processes in the coastal zone;
 - to develop numerical modelling of coastal processes in Europe; to harmonize on a European scale, design concepts of coastal engineering.

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Area 3: Marine technology ECU 19,80 million

- The prime objective is to encourage the necessary enabling technologies for the advancement of the marine sciences and related industrial development and to promote the development of operational measuring and observation systems

Area 4: Supporting initiatives including in particular: ECU 5,20 million

- the establishment of a European ocean data and information system, the preparation of norms and standards, a modelling co-ordination initiative, exchange of information on research cruises and research facilities, design of new large-scale facilities, advanced training, new approaches to mapping, etc.

Area 5: Large-scale target projects ECU 15,50 million

- projects to be developed to address particular problems which require large-scale multi-disciplinary research

TOTAL ECU 102,96 million

- Specific programme in the field of telematic systems

The Council adopted a common position on the specific R&TD programme in the field of telematic systems in areas of general interest (1990-1994).

The amount deemed necessary to implement the programme is ECU 376,2 million, including ECU 41 million for administrative and staff expenditure.

The programme's key objectives are given below, with an indicative breakdown of the amount involved:

Area 1: Support for the establishment of transeuropean
networks between administrations ECU 41,3 million

- Identification of needs and implementing strategies
- Development of the technologies relating to telematic services and validation of common functional specifications

Area 2: Transport services ECU 124,4 million

- Road transport (DRIVE)
- Strategies for the use of technologies, telematic services and systems and contribution to the definition of common functional specifications
- Technologies and experimental development of systems
- Validation and pilot projects

Area 3: Health care (AIM) ECU 97 million

- Strategies for the use of technologies, telematic services and systems and contribution to the definition of common functional specifications

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- Development of telematic technology applied to medicine
- Validation and integration

Area 4: Flexible and distance learning (DELTA) ECU 54,5 million

- Strategies for the use of technologies, telematic systems and services and contribution to the definition of common functional specifications
- Development of systems and technologies
- Experiments on the validation and integration of services

Area 5: Libraries ECU 22,5 million

- Equipment and telematic systems
- User access to knowledge

Area 6: Linguistic research and engineering ECU 22,5 million

- Computer applications to linguistic resources

Area 7: Telematic systems for rural areas ECU 14 million

- Creation of comparable telematic infrastructures
to those in urban centres

TOTAL ECU 376,2 million

- Specific programme concerning the environment

Having noted an agreement in principle on the common position on this programme, the Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to expedite the technical finalization of the text.

The amount deemed necessary to implement the programme is ECU 261,4 million, including ECU 15 million to cover administrative and staff expenditure.

The programme's key objectives are given below, with an indicative breakdown of the amount involved:

Area 1: Participation in global change programmes ECU 104,6 million

- Natural climatic change
- Anthropogenic climate change
- Climate change impacts
- Stratospheric ozone
- Tropospheric physics and chemistry
- Biogeochemical cycles
- Ecosystem dynamics

Area 2: Technologies and engineering for the
environment ECU 65,3 million

- Assessment of environmental quality and monitoring
- Technologies for protecting and rehabilitating the environment

Area 3: Research on economic and social aspects
of environmental issues

ECU 15,7 million

- Socio-economic assessment of the changing environment
- Socio-economic impact of environmental policies and research

Area 4: Technological and natural risks

ECU 75,8 million

- Natural risks
- Technological risks
- Desertification in the Mediterranean area

TOTAL ECU 261,4 million ⁽¹⁾

- Specific programme concerning life sciences and technologies for developing countries

The Council noted a favourable disposition as regards substance to the content of the R&TD programme in the field of life sciences and technologies for developing countries (1990-1994), implementation of which is deemed to require ECU 109,89 million.

(1) A further ECU 150 million will be set aside for JRC research on the environment.

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It instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to examine the amended Commission proposal including some of the amendments requested by the European Parliament, so that the Council could establish its common position at an early date.

- Other specific programmes

After addressing some problems arising in connection with 4 other specific programmes spanning the period 1990-1994 and concerning the following sectors:

- information technology
- communication technology
- industrial and materials technologies
- biomedicine and health,

the Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to expedite examination of these programmes, so that it could adopt its common positions on them at the earliest opportunity, without a further ministerial debate if possible.

EUROPEAN RESEARCH POLICIES AND STRATEGIES

The Ministers held a policy exchange of views broaching certain general topics relating to European research policies and strategies, dealing inter alia with

- input by the research sector in the general process of the Community's integration;
- ways and means of organizing exchange programmes for research scientists teaching staff and students with the countries of Eastern and central Europe ("COPERNICUS" initiative),

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- participation by the scientific community in the formulation of research themes and programmes in Europe.

The Ministers agreed to continue holding exchanges of view of this kind in future.

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MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Other decisions concerning research

Following completion of the co-operation procedure with the European Parliament, the Council adopted a specific research and technological development programme in the field of transport (EURET)(1990-1993). This specific programme, which comes under the second framework programme (1987-1991), has an ECU 25 million budget - including a staff of 6-spanning three years, and covers the following areas:

- competitiveness: improving the effectiveness and competitiveness of transport systems and of the corresponding industries by reducing costs and improving performance, the quality of the service and management of the different systems and their components;
- safety: improving the safety of modes of transport and working conditions;
- protection of the environment: reducing the harmful effects of modes of transport on the environment.

Community research into transport should be devised in the interest of the entire Community transport system, for the benefit of each mode and with a view to consistent stimulation. It should help in decision-making regarding transport policy, research and transport related industry policy.

Given the complexity and the size of the transport sector, the EURET programme embraces a small number of priority research topics.

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The EURET programme has three specific objectives:

- optimum network exploitation (ECU 16,5 million);
- logistics (ECU 7,5 million);
- reduction of harmful external effects (ECU 1 million).

The Council also adopted a common position on the conclusion of a co-operation agreement between the European Economic Community and the Republic of Iceland on a programme plan to stimulate the international co-operation and interchange needed by European research scientists (SCIENCE).

MEDIA programme

The Council adopted the Decision setting up the MEDIA programme, designed to promote the development of the European audiovisual industry.

The action programme has been adopted for a five-year period starting on 1 January 1991; ECU 200 million are deemed necessary for the Community's participation during that period.

The following measures will receive support:

- distribution mechanisms (distribution of films in cinemas, distribution on video cassette, support for multilingualism in television programmes, development of markets and support for the dissemination of the work of independent producers);
- improvement of production conditions (development of preproduction, restructuring of the animated cartoon industry, use of new technologies

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in the production of programmes, contribution to the use of film and television archives);

- stimulation of financial investment;
- improving the economic and commercial management abilities of professionals (critical study and development, by experts, of projects submitted by young producers, further training measures, co-ordinated in particular by the MEDIA Business School);
- development of potential in countries with smaller audiovisual production capacities and/or with a limited geographical and linguistic area; other measures.

These measures will take the form of projects managed by professionals. The Commission, assisted by a Committee, will ensure implementation and co-ordination of the programme.

As a rule, the Commission's co-contractors participating in the implementation of the measures must contribute a substantial share of the funding covering not less than 50% of their total cost.

In the implementation of the action programme, a significant part of the total budget will go towards Community participation in Audiovisual EUREKA, grouping together 26 European countries, with a view to boosting the continent's audiovisual capacity. The programme may also include promotion of co-operation with professionals in the audiovisual sector in Central and Eastern European countries.

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Rules of Procedure of the Court of First Instance and of the Court of Justice

The Council approved the Rules of Procedure of the Court of First Instance and the amendments to the Rules of Procedure of the Court of Justice.

Article 168a of the Treaty and the corresponding Articles of the other Treaties stipulate that the Court of First Instance is to establish its rules of procedure in agreement with the Court of Justice and that those rules require the unanimous approval of the Council.

The Council has now approved these Rules, the draft of which was forwarded to it by the Court in April and which was examined by the Council's subordinate bodies.

Also in April, the Court submitted to the Council some amendments inspired by the Court's concern to accelerate procedures in certain cases and to clarify, in the light of experience, the meaning of a number of provisions of the Rules.

Following examination of the amendments by its subordinate bodies, the Council has now approved them in accordance with Articles 188 of the EEC Treaty, 160 of the EAEC Treaty and Article 55 of the Protocol on the Statute of the Court of Justice of the ECSC.

Relations with Hungary

The Council adopted the Decision granting medium-term financial assistance to Hungary.

The Decision empowers the Commission to borrow on behalf of the European Economic Community an amount of ECU 260 million and to onlend the proceeds of the borrowing to Hungary as the second tranche of the medium-term financial assistance provided for by the Council in its Decision of 12 February 1990. By

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that Decision, the Community granted Hungary a medium-term loan for an amount equivalent to one thousand million dollars, with a maximum duration of five years, in order to enable it to overcome structural adjustment difficulties. A first tranche equivalent to 400 million dollars was decided at the time.

Textiles

The Council adopted the Decisions on the provisional application of the Agreed Minutes amending

- the Agreement between the European Economic Community and Czechoslovakia on trade in textile products;
- the Agreements between the European Economic Community, of the one part, and Bulgaria, Hungary, Romania and Czechoslovakia, respectively, of the other part. The purpose of the amendment is to include outward processing traffic (OPT) in these Agreements.

Commercial policy

- Relations between the EC and the United States - GATT Article XXIV/6

The Council approved the exchange of letters between the Community and the United States extending for one year, until 31 December 1991, the Agreement concluded in January 1987 under GATT Article XXIV/6 (consequent on the Community's enlargement, with a view to ensuring a minimum annual level of corn and sorghum imports into Spain).

The extension takes account of the fact that the current Uruguay Round negotiations will not be concluded before the scheduled date of expiry of the

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Agreement. It is not possible, therefore, formally to complete the review procedure provided for in the Agreement, notably as regards the features relating to agriculture.

- Manioc/sweet potatoes

The Council adopted the Regulations amending

- Regulation (EEC) No 430/87 concerning the import arrangements applicable to products covered by CN codes 0714 10 and 0714 90 and originating in certain third countries; this amendment is intended, in particular, to limit imports of manioc originating in China to 350 000 tonnes per year in 1991 and 1992;
- Regulation (EEC) No 1471/88 as regards imports of sweet potatoes intended for uses other than human consumption and originating in the People's Republic of China for 1991 and 1992; this amendment is intended to limit imports of sweet potatoes originating in China to 600 000 tonnes per year in 1991 and 1992.

- Chemical products

The Council adopted the Regulation opening and providing for the administration of Community tariff quotas for certain chemical products (1991).

Relations with the Mediterranean countries

The Council adopted the Regulations

- opening and providing for the administration of a Community preferential ceiling for certain petroleum products refined in Turkey and establishing Community surveillance for imports thereof (1991);
- totally or partially suspending the duties applicable to certain products falling within Chapters 1 to 24 of the Combined Nomenclature and originating in Malta (1991);
- suspending wholly or in part the Common Customs Tariff duties on certain agricultural products originating in Turkey (1991).

The Representatives of the Governments of the Member States, meeting within the Council, adopted the Decision establishing ceilings and Community supervision for imports of certain goods falling within the ECSC Treaty and originating in Yugoslavia (1991).

Relations with Tunisia

The Council authorized the Commission to negotiate with Tunisia an Agreement in the form of an Exchange of Letters between the European Economic Community and the Tunisian Republic laying down the arrangements applicable from 1 January 1991 to imports into the Community of unprocessed olive oil originating in Tunisia.

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Operation of EURATOM safeguards

The Council adopted the following conclusions:

The Council, having received a report from the Commission on EURATOM safeguards,

- notes the wide-ranging scope of the work carried out in this context by the Commission, as provided for in Chapter VII of the EURATOM Treaty;
- points out that in the Community civil nuclear materials are subject to highly effective EURATOM safeguards as regards the quality, number and frequency of inspections and end use;
- appreciates the positive results obtained and in particular the fact that, in carrying out these activities as described in the report, the Commission noted no evidence of diversion;
- reiterates the importance of pursuing the safeguard activities of EURATOM and the IAEA and the essential need for consistent application of existing rules at both Community and international level;
- stresses the need to ensure that a high level of safeguards is maintained for the future in the Community, particularly in the light of the use of mixed plutonium fuels; it therefore emphasizes the need to develop and extend cost-effective techniques which will facilitate safeguard procedures;
- requests the Commission to report at least every two years on its activities relating to the operation of EURATOM safeguards;
- in addition, emphasizes the contribution of EURATOM to compliance with international undertakings on safeguards and the importance of close co-operation with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in order to derive maximum value from respective inspection activities and to avoid duplication of effort;
- acknowledges the importance of compliance with international (IAEA) safeguards on non-proliferation and expresses its appreciation of the co-operation of the nuclear industry in the Community in this regard;
- observes that the general approach adopted by the Community on non-proliferation, as outlined in the statement annexed to the Presidency's conclusions at the close of the discussions of the European Council in Dublin, is thus respected.

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Agriculture

The Council adopted the Regulations

- amending Regulation (EEC) No 2990/82 on the sale of butter at reduced prices to persons receiving social assistance; this measure is intended to extend the arrangements for reduced-price sales until 31 December 1992;
- on the transfer to Greece of 150 000 tonnes of feed grain held by the German intervention agency; the feed grain is intended to help Greek farmers cope with the animal feed shortage caused by the drought which hit Greece in recent months;
- laying down general rules for the application of Regulation (EEC) No 1198/90 establishing a Community register of citrus cultivation;
- amending Regulation (EEC) No 1035/72 on the common organization of the market in fruit and vegetables; the purpose of this amendment is to add melons to the list of products subject to Community quality standards.

Shipbuilding

The Council adopted the Directive on aid to shipbuilding (see press release No 10159/90 (Presse 198) of the Industry Council on 26 November 1990).

Environment

The Council adopted the conclusions concerning participation by the European Economic Community in the negotiations with a view to drawing up an Agreement for

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the conservation of the White Stork within the framework of the Convention on the conservation of migratory species of wild animals (Bonn Convention).

Transport

The Council adopted

- the Regulations amending Regulation (EEC) No 3164/76 on access to the market in the international carriage of goods by road
 - = increase in the Community quota for 1991/1992
 - = adjustment of the Community quota following German unification
- the Regulation on measures to be taken in the event of a crisis in the market in the carriage of goods by road

(see press release No 10872/90 (Presse 233) of the Transport Council on 17 and 18 December 1990).

ECSC

The Council gave assents:

- under the second paragraph of Article 54 of the ECSC Treaty
 - = for the granting of a global loan to Barclays Bank PLC for financing investment projects which contribute to financing the marketing of Community steel
 - = to the co-financing of the conversion from oil to coal firing of boilers at Guinness Brewing Worldwide Ltd., formerly Arthur Guinness Son and Company (Great Britain) Ltd.
- under Article 56(2)(a) of the ECSC Treaty concerning:

- = Granada Motorway Services Ltd (United Kingdom)
- = Dresdner Bank AG (Federal Republic of Germany)
- = USINOR SACILOR (France)
- = SDR TOFINSO (France)
- = Crédit d'Equipement des petites et moyennes entreprises (France)
- = WA Turner Ltd (United Kingdom)
- = TESCO plc (United Kingdom)
- = Pfizer Ltd (United Kingdom).

The Representatives of the Governments of the Member States, meeting within the Council, adopted the Decision on the opening of a zero-duty tariff quota for flat-rolled products of silicon-electrical steel. The Decision stipulates that, from 1 January to 30 June 1991, the Benelux countries may be granted a zero-duty tariff quota in respect of imports from non-member countries of 300 tonnes of flat-rolled products of silicon-electrical steel meeting certain specific specifications.

Appointment

The Council adopted the Decision appointing an alternate member of the Advisory Committee on Veterinary Training.

Bruxelles, le 20 décembre 1990

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**NOTE BIO(90) 412 AUX BUREAUX NATIONAUX
CC. AUX MEMBRES DU SERVICE DU PORTE-PAROLE**

PREPARATION DU CONSEIL RECHERCHE DU VENDREDI 21 DECEMBRE 1990
(V. d'Udekem)

Le Conseil entamera ses travaux à 10h00 sous la Présidence du Ministre Italien de la Recherche scientifique et de la Technologie, M. Antonio Ruberti. La Commission sera représentée par le Vice-Président Filippo Maria PANDOLFI.

Les douze auront sur leur table, pour la première fois, un certain nombre des propositions de programmes spécifiques de Recherche et Développement Technologique (RDT), présentées par la Commission, pour mettre en oeuvre le IIIème Programme Cadre de RDT de la Communauté.

Pour mémoire, rappelons que le 23 avril dernier le Conseil a adopté le IIIème Programme-Cadre de RDT, qui, s'étendant sur une période de cinq années (1990-1994), est doté d'un budget de 5,7 milliards d'ECU. Et seulement deux jours plus tard, soit le 25 avril, la Commission a adopté 13 des 15 propositions de programmes spécifiques mettant en oeuvre ce IIIème Programme-Cadre (note P(90) 32). Les deux propositions restantes, soit celles relevant du Traité EURATOM, furent adoptées peu de temps après (note P(90)56 et P(90)66).

Demain, 8 propositions de programmes spécifiques seront à l'ordre du jour.

Plus précisément, une décision du Conseil est attendue pour l'établissement de positions communes sur les programmes spécifiques suivants :

- Développement des systèmes télématiques d'intérêt général (380 MECU)
- Environnement (414 MECU)
- Sciences et technologies marines (104 MECU)
- Sciences et technologies du vivant pour les pays en développement (111 MECU)

Les quatre autres programmes sur la table feront l'objet d'un débat d'orientation. Il s'agit des programmes concernant :

- Technologies de l'Information (1352 MECU)
- Technologies des communications (489 MECU)
- Technologies Industrielles et des matériaux (748 MECU)
- Recherche biomédicale et santé (133 MECU)

De plus amples informations sur le contenu de chacun de ces programmes sont disponibles dans la note de background annexée à la note P(90) 23.

En plus des discussions relatives aux programmes spécifiques qui monopoliseront la majeure partie de leur temps, les Douze poursuivront leur échange de vues, entamé au déjeuner du Conseil Recherche du 20 novembre (BIO(90) 357), sur l'examen des thèmes généraux des politiques et stratégies de la recherche européenne.

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En point A est attendue une prise de position commune sur une proposition de décision concernant la conclusion d'un accord de coopération entre la Communauté et l'Islande afin de permettre la participation de ce pays au programme SCIENCE ou, en d'autres termes, au programme communautaire de stimulation des coopérations Internationales et des échanges nécessaires aux chercheurs européens.

SCIENCE est un programme du deuxième Programme-Cadre de Recherche et Développement Technologique qui est toujours en cours. D'une durée de 5 années (1988 à 1992), Science est doté d'un budget de 167 MECU. D'autres pays de l'AELE y participent déjà.

Amitiés,



Bruno DETHOMAS

Bruxelles, le 22 décembre 1990

Note BIO(90) 412 (suite 1 et fin) aux bureaux nationaux
cc. aux membres du Service du Porte-Parole

CONSEIL RECHERCHE DU VENDREDI, 21 DECEMBRE 1990

Programmes spécifiques de Recherche et de Développement Technologique de la Communauté.

Des positions communes ont été adoptées par les Douze sur les propositions de programmes spécifiques suivants :

- Développement des systèmes télématiques d'intérêt général,
- Environnement,
- Sciences et technologies marines.

Un accord politique s'est dégagé sur les aspects horizontaux du programme concernant les sciences et technologies du vivant pour les pays en développement. Après approfondissement par le Coreper du contenu scientifique de la version modifiée (suite à l'avis du Parlement) du programme, proposée par la Commission, une position commune sur ce dernier sera adoptée en point A lors d'un prochain Conseil.

Les quatre autres programmes qui étaient sur la table du Conseil, soit ceux relatifs aux :

- technologies de l'information,
- technologies des communications,
- technologies industrielles et des matériaux,
- recherche biomédicale et santé,

vont faire au Coreper l'objet d'un examen approfondi. En fonction des résultats de ces travaux et du niveau de consensus atteint au Coreper, il a été envisagé politiquement par les Douze que ces programmes puissent être également, sous respect de ces conditions, adoptés comme points A lors d'un autre Conseil.

De l'ensemble de la discussion sur ces propositions de programmes spécifiques, il est clairement apparu la volonté de tous de ne négliger aucune possibilité pour permettre une mise en oeuvre la plus rapide possible du Troisième Programme Cadre de Recherche et de Développement Technologique de la Communauté (1990-1994).

Programme Science (stimulation des coopérations internationales et des échanges nécessaires aux chercheurs européens).

Une position commune a été adoptée par le Conseil sur une proposition de décision relative à la conclusion d'un accord de coopération entre la Communauté et l'Islande pour permettre la participation de ce pays au programme.

Amitiés,

V. D'UDEKEM



