

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.

21.XII.90

ert/MM/mh

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

Commission:

Mr Filippo Maria PANDOLFI

Vice-President

- 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.

21.XII.90  
ert/MM/ac

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

21.XII.90

ert/MM/ac

- 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

21.XII.90

ert/MM/ac

- 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

21.XII.90

ert/MM/ac

- 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<sup>(1)</sup>

- 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.



21.XII.90  
ert/MM/joc

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 AD 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),

21.XII.90

ert/MM/joc

- 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.