

COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

*Research*

24.IV.91

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IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME ON RESEARCH AND  
TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT (1990-1994)

*4412 .1*

- INTERINSTITUTIONAL COMPROMISE ON THE SPECIFIC PROGRAMMES

The Council endorsed the interinstitutional political compromise signed in Strasbourg on 17 April 1991 by the Presidents of the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission to resolve the differences between the institutions which had emerged during the co-operation procedure on the specific research programmes in the following areas:

- marine science and technology
- environment
- life sciences and technologies for developing countries
- development of telematics systems
- communications technologies.

During the discussion, Vice-President PANDOLFI also stated that the Commission accepted the agreement. The European Parliament is expected to state its position formally on this matter at its May part-session. It should therefore be possible to adopt the five programmes in the near future.

The provisions of the interinstitutional agreement will be incorporated by the Council in the five specific programmes mentioned above.

These aspects will also be taken into account in the five programmes discussed at this meeting.

Lastly, the provisions to be adopted for the other specific programmes still to be decided upon pursuant to the third framework programme should also be based on the provisions of the interinstitutional agreement.

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Italy:

Mr Antonio RUBERTI

Minister for Universities,  
Scientific Research  
and Technology

Luxembourg:

Mr René STEICHEN

Minister responsible for  
Scientific Research

Netherlands:

Mr Koos ANDRIESSEN

Minister for Economic Affairs

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

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- COMMON POSITIONS FOR A SECOND SERIES OF SPECIFIC PROGRAMMES

Continuing the implementation of the third RDT framework programme for 1990-1994, specifying the activities to be pursued for developing the scientific knowledge and technical know-how needed by the Community, the Council discussed 5 common positions concerning specific programmes covering the following areas:

- Information technologies
- Biomedicine and health
- Non-nuclear energy
- Industrial and materials technologies
- Agriculture and agro-industry

The Council adopted common positions on the first two programmes.

As regards the other three, the Council reached agreement on the substance, and the common positions will be adopted shortly, once the texts have been finalized.

The common positions will be forwarded to the European Parliament for its part-session from 13 to 17 May.

The programmes involve an amount of ECU 2 618,55 million out of a total of ECU 5 700 million in the framework programme and have a number of characteristics in common, some of which are covered by the interinstitutional agreement.

Thus, as regards administration of the programmes by the Commission, the agreement specifies that the committees to assist the Commission will be type I (i.e. consultative) for non-nuclear energy, biomedicine and health and type III A (regulatory committees) for industrial technologies and materials and for agriculture and agro-industry; for information technologies the

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procedure will be type III A, except for the preparation of the work programme, which will follow the ESPRIT II model.

As regards relations with third countries, the Commission is authorized to negotiate, in accordance with Article 130n of the Treaty, agreements with third countries which are COST members, particularly the EFTA countries and the countries of Central and Eastern Europe, with the aim of associating them with all or part of the programmes <sup>(1)</sup>.

The Commission is required to assess the economic and social impact and possible technological risks in the context of all the specific research programmes.

- Specific programme on information technologies

The amount deemed necessary to implement the programme is ECU 1 338,48 million, including ECU 94 million for administrative and staff expenditure.

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

Area 1: Micro-electronics, with three main strategic actions:

ECU 388 million

- strengthening of a European technology base on which manufacturing capability of leading edge ICs can be based
- strengthening capabilities with respect to the chain of designing, manufacturing, testing and applying advanced and reliable integrated circuits
- drawing on all the resources available, ensuring wide participation of the largest

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(1) As regards Area 3 (Human genome analysis) of the specific programme on biomedicine and health, the Commission is also authorized to negotiate with other third countries and international organizations.

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number of potential actors (large and small industries, both producers and users, universities and research centres).

Area 2: Information processing systems and software,  
with the following main lines of action: ECU 335 million

- exploiting potential technological breakthroughs in concurrent architectures
- providing better interfaces to satisfy the needs of end-users
- promoting the take up of new software production technologies.

Area 3: Advanced business and home systems: ECU 227,48 million  
Peripherals

Advanced Business and Home Systems will aim for function integration in the business environment as well as in and with the home environment with especially high priority being given to prenormative work.

Area 4: Computer-integrated manufacturing ECU 254 million  
and engineering

The activities aim at providing the technology base for open systems, multivendor systems and distributed operations in engineering and manufacturing environments as well as to contribute to better integration of advanced IT systems components in engineering industries.

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Area 5: Basic research

ECU 134 million

Projects in this area will be selected on the basis of their potential to produce future breakthroughs or important advances even if they have no immediately visible application; their ability to benefit from the added value which co-operation on a European scale provides; their positioning clearly upstream of R&D efforts, while contributing to the overall aims of the programme; the reinforcement of interdisciplinary links.

TOTAL <sup>(1)</sup> ECU 1 338,48 million

- Specific programme on biomedicine and health

The amount deemed necessary to implement the programme is ECU 131,67 million, including ECU 13 million for administrative and staff expenditure.

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

Area 1: Prevention, care and health systems

ECU 28 million

This area covers the harmonization of methodologies and protocols in epidemiological, biological, clinical and technological research.

Area 2: Major health problems and diseases of great socio-economic impact

ECU 72 million

(a) AIDS

(ECU 22 million)

The research will take into account the activities already developed by the Community and will be spread over five main sectors:

- disease prevention
- basic research
- clinical research
- the development of a European Vaccine against AIDS (EVA)
- trials of Antiviral Drugs in AIDS Management (ADAM).

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(1) A sum of ECU 13,52 million, not included in the ECU 1 338,48 million, will be earmarked for the centralized scheme for the dissemination and exploitation of the results of this programme.

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(b) Cancer

Epidemiology and basic research on genomic and phenotypic changes in cancer cells (invasion and metastasis) and immune surveillance will be extended.

(c) Cardiovascular disease

The various forms of heart and circulatory disease will be studied, focusing on research where coherent broadly-based clinical and epidemiological surveys are most useful.

(d) Mental illness and neurological disease

The aim of such studies will be to improve understanding of the causes of mental illness and also the evolution from pathology to disability and social disadvantage, and to develop new methods of prevention and care.

(e) The ageing process, and age-related health problems and handicaps

Comparative research will be carried out on perinatal illnesses (including study of the consequences of prenatal diagnosis) and paediatric illnesses and on the effectiveness of prophylactic and therapeutic measures.

The overall target of research in the field of ageing will be centred on preventing and coping with dependency.

Area 3: Human genome analysis

ECU 28 million

Emphasis will be placed on medical applications which contribute to the well-being of patients, in co-ordination with other elements of the specific programme, to ensure that advances in genetics are used to enhance human health.

Area 4: Research on biomedical ethics

ECU 3,67 million

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Work will deal with:

- evaluation of questions of biomedical ethics linked with the present programme
- evaluation of the social impact of the programme and the risks (including the technological risks) which might be associated with it.

TOTAL <sup>(1)</sup> ECU 131,67 million

- Specific programme on non-nuclear energy

The amount deemed necessary to implement the programme is ECU 155,43 million, including ECU 18 million for administrative and staff expenditure.

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

Area 1: Analysis of strategies and modelling ECU 9 million

The aim of these activities is to define energy R&D strategies and to analyse national or Community policies dealing with energy and the environment.

Area 2: Minimum emission power production from fossil sources ECU 36 million

With the development and extension of projects already carried out pursuant to the JOULE programme, this research aims at optimizing energy production from fossil sources and reducing the adverse effects on the environment of the widespread use of fossil fuels.

Area 3: Renewable energy sources, with the following particular objectives: ECU 57,43 million

- to increase the conversion efficiency of solar, wind, mini-hydraulic, wave, tidal, biomass and geothermal systems,

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(1) A sum of ECU 1,33 million, not included in the ECU 131,67 million, will be earmarked for the centralized scheme for the dissemination and exploitation of the results of this programme.



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- to decrease their costs and improve their attractiveness to developers, industry and consumers.

Area 4: Energy utilization and conservation  
with the following objectives:

ECU 53 million

- to develop highly efficient and clean electrochemical energy conversion systems for electricity generation, cogeneration, hydrogen and methanol production, transport and industrial electrochemical reactors.
- to develop and improve technologies and modelling tools which are expected to have a major impact on heat and electricity savings and on reducing pollution.

TOTAL <sup>(1)</sup> ECU 155,43 million

- Specific programme on industrial and materials technologies

The amount deemed necessary to implement the programme is ECU 663,3 million, including ECU 35 million for administrative and staff expenditure.

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

Area 1: Materials - raw materials

- raw materials and recycling ECU 80 million
- materials ECU 228,8 million

The objective is to contribute to improving the performance of materials at a cost which permits competitive industrial exploitation over a broad range of applications not restricted to a few high-performance items.

As regards raw materials, research will seek to improve the technologies necessary to ensure the supply of resources, including technologies to locate and extract deposits, processing and treatment by economic means that are safe and environmentally acceptable.

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(1) A sum of ECU 1,57 million, not included in the ECU 155,43 million, will be earmarked for the centralized scheme for the dissemination and exploitation of the results of this programme.

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Area 2: Design and manufacturing

The objective is to improve the capability of industry to design and manufacture products which are, at the same time, of high quality, easy to maintain, highly competitive and environmentally and socially acceptable. ECU 301,5 million

Area 3: Aeronautics research with the following objectives: ECU 53 million

- to contribute to strengthening the technology base of the European aeronautical industry
- to contribute to the knowledge base which supports actions to minimize environmental impact
- to enhance the safety and efficiency of aircraft operations
- to promote further co-operation between large high-technology companies and smaller companies, SMUs and research institutions/universities throughout the Community.

TOTAL <sup>(1)</sup> ECU 663,3 million

- Specific programme on agriculture and agro-industry

The amount deemed necessary to implement the programme is ECU 329,67 million, including ECU 20 million for administrative and staff expenditure.

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

Area 1: Primary production in agriculture, horticulture, forestry, fisheries and aquaculture ECU 100 million

Work under this heading aims at adapting primary production

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(1) A sum of ECU 6,7 million, not included in the ECU 663,3 million, will be earmarked for the centralized scheme for the dissemination and exploitation of the results of this programme.

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to the quantitative and qualitative demands of the market and the consumers. Account will be taken of Community policies and the need for their evolution, including those for agriculture and fisheries, having regard to the internal market.

Area 2: Inputs to agriculture, horticulture, forestry, fisheries and aquaculture ECU 65 million

Work under this heading will contribute to the competitiveness and viability of undertakings in agriculture, forestry, fisheries and aquaculture through better control of inputs and a reduction in production costs. Specific attention will be paid to the needs of less-favoured and marginal rural and coastal areas.

Area 3: Processing of biological raw materials from agriculture, horticulture, forestry, fisheries and aquaculture ECU 100 million

The aim is to provide, through precompetitive R&D, the basis for processes (including transport and storage) for new or improved, competitive products in the food, non-food and energy sectors.

Area 4: End use and final products ECU 64,67 million

The objective is to generate a better knowledge of the characteristics, as needed by users and consumers, with particular reference to public health and the environment, of final products derived from biological materials (food and non-food, including energy, forest and horticultural products).

TOTAL <sup>(1)</sup> ECU 329,67 million

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(1) A sum of ECU 3,33 million, not included in the ECU 329,67 million, will be earmarked for the centralized scheme for the dissemination and exploitation of the results of this programme.

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Of this total ECU 45 million will be earmarked for demonstration projects of relevance to the four areas the aim of which will be to demonstrate, on a scale close to reality, the technical reliability and economic viability of a new product and/or new technology which has been proved feasible on a small scale.