

COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

COM(90) 675 final SYN 259

Brussels, 14 December 1990

Amendment to the proposal for a

COUNCIL DECISION

**on a specific programme of research and technological development in the field of
Communication Technologies**

(presented by the Commission pursuant to Article 149(3)
of the EEC-Treaty)

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Commission presented its initial proposal concerning a specific programme of research and technological development in the field of Communication Technologies on 23 May 1990, COM(90) 154 final SYN 259.

The Parliament gave its opinion in a first reading on 12 December 1990 (PV n° 147.263). The Commission, having accepted the following amendments in the plenary, modifies its initial proposal by means of the present document, nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9 (in part), 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 28.

Amendments 12, 27 and the Oral Amendment 42 are acceptable in a modified form.

The following amendments are not retained, nos. 7, 10, 11, 22, 23, 24, 25, 29, 30.

Amendment 7 concerns dissemination of results which will be the subject of a separate decision on its budget allocation and modalities for implementation.

Amendments 10 and 11 relate to the type of Committee that should assist the Commission in the Management of the Programme. A type IIIa Management Committee is appropriate for the specific programme on telematic systems.

Amendment 22 replaces the ranges in the breakdown of expenditure by an average figure. This loss of flexibility is not desirable.

On Modalities of implementation, amendments 23, 24, 25, 30 are not retained, either for legal or political reasons.

Amendment 23, related to amendment 7, is unnecessary and inappropriate for a Council decision.

Amendment 24 fixes a percentage allocation for technology and risk assessment. Such a fixed percentage allocation is inappropriate.

Amendment 25 is not applicable to this specific programme.

Amendment 29 is unnecessary, the Vade-Mecum will be made available when the programme is adopted.

Amendment 30 addresses a general issue, which cannot be dealt with in a specific programme decision.

Text proposed by the Commission

Text amended by Parliament

(Amendment No. 1)

Fourth recital

Whereas, pursuant to Article 4 and Annex I of Decision 90/221/EURATOM, EEC, the amount deemed necessary for the whole framework programme includes an amount of 57 million ECU for the centralized dissemination and exploitation of results, to be divided up in proportion to the amount envisaged for each activity; whereas in view of the importance of this specific programme within the information and communications technologies action the estimate of the financial resources needed by this programme is to be reduced by 4.89 million ECU, which amount is to be allocated to the centralized activities, in order to comply with the second sentence of Article 130p(2) of the Treaty;

Whereas, pursuant to Article 4 and Annex I of Decision 90/221/EURATOM, EEC, the amount deemed necessary for the whole framework programme includes an amount deemed necessary of 57 million ECU for the centralized dissemination and exploitation of results which is to be the subject of a decision of the Council in cooperation with Parliament; whereas, in view of the importance of this specific programme within the information and communications technologies action a financial contribution to the centralized activities is required;

Text proposed by the Commission

Text amended by Parliament

(Amendment No. 2)

Recital 4a (new)

Whereas fundamental research must be specifically encouraged Community wide in each of the strategic research sectors of the Framework Programme;

Text proposed by the Commission

Text amended by Parliament

(Amendment No. 3)

Recital 5a (new)

Whereas, in addition to the specific programme on human capital and mobility, training of researchers in each of the strategic research sectors of the Framework Programme must be ensured;

Text proposed by the Commission

Text amended by Parliament

(Amendment No. 4)

Recital 5b (new)

Whereas the economic and social
(human and environmental) impact of
the programme must be assessed by an
independent panel, and technology
and risk assessment be undertaken;

Text proposed by the Commission

Text amended by Parliament

(Amendment No. 5)

Recital 6

Whereas this programme must be implemented essentially by the selection of research and development projects to enable them to benefit from Community participation; whereas the Commission should encourage the submission of such projects by the usual means of publishing calls for proposals in the Official Journal of the European Communities; whereas a special procedure should also be devised so as to maintain a degree of flexibility enabling the Commission, in the face of the continuous evolution and gradual acceleration of technological progress, also to take into consideration spontaneous proposals consistent with the objectives of the programme;

Whereas this programme must be implemented essentially by the selection of research and development projects to enable them to benefit from Community participation; whereas the Commission should encourage the submission of such projects by the usual means of publishing calls for proposals in the Official Journal of the European Communities; whereas an exceptional procedure should also be devised so as to come into effect between calls for proposals so as to maintain a degree of flexibility enabling the Commission, in the face of the continuous evolution and gradual acceleration of technological progress, also to take into consideration spontaneous proposals consistent with the objectives of the programme;

Oral Amendment no. 42

Recital 6a (new)

(Modified Form)

Whereas support for the international competitiveness of European industry through Community research and technological development programmes, is linked with the Community's external relations policy based on the principle of "the global equilibrium of opportunities" and that it is also in the light of this policy that the participation of non-Community European companies must be considered.

Text proposed by the Commission

Text amended by Parliament

(Amendment No. 6)

Article 1

A specific research and technological development programme for the European Economic Community in the field of communication technologies, as defined in Annex I, is hereby adopted for a period of five years as from 1 January 1990.

A specific research and technological development programme for the European Economic Community in the field of communication technologies, as defined in Annex I, is hereby adopted for the period from the date of publication of this decision in the Official Journal to 31 December 1994.

Text proposed by the Commission

Text amended by Parliament

(Amendment No. 8)

Article 5(3)

3. The reports shall be drawn up having regard to the objectives set out in Annex I to this Decision and in accordance with Article 2(4) of Decision 90/221/Euratom, EEC.

3. The reports shall be drawn up having regard to the objectives set out in Annex I to this Decision and in accordance with Article 2(4) of Decision 90/.../EURATOM, EEC, and shall assess the coherence of the programme's measurable implementation with the six major concerns set out in Annex II of Council Decision 90/221/EURATOM, EEC.

Text proposed by the Commission

Text amended by Parliament

(Amendment No. 9)

Article 6

1. The Commission shall be responsible for the execution of the programme. It shall be assisted by a committee, hereinafter referred to as 'the Committee', composed of representatives of the Member States and chaired by a representative of the Commission.

2. The contracts concluded by the Commission shall govern the rights and obligations of each party, including the procedures for disseminating, protecting and exploiting the research results, in accordance with the arrangements adopted pursuant to the second paragraph of Article 130k of the Treaty.

3. A work programme for each year shall be drawn up and updated where necessary. It shall set out the detailed objectives and types of projects to be undertaken, and the financial arrangements to be made for them. The Commission shall make calls for proposals for projects on the basis of the annual work programmes.

2. The contracts concluded by the Commission shall govern the rights and obligations of each party, including the procedures for disseminating, protecting and exploiting the research results, in accordance with the arrangements adopted pursuant to the second paragraph of Article 130k of the Treaty and, where appropriate, procedures for training and evaluation.

3. A work programme shall be drawn up at the start of the programme and shall be regularly revised. It shall set out the detailed objectives and types of projects to be undertaken, and the financial arrangements to be made for them. The Commission shall make calls for proposals for projects on the basis of the annual work programmes.

Text proposed by the Commission

Text amended by Parliament

(Amendment No. 12) (modified form)
Article 10

Where cooperation with third countries and international organizations aiming at achieving the objectives of this programme requires legal undertakings between the Community and the third parties concerned, the Commission shall be authorized to negotiate, in accordance with Article 130n of the Treaty, international agreements laying down the terms of such cooperation.

Where cooperation with third countries and international organizations aiming at achieving the objectives of this programme requires legal undertakings between the Community and the third parties concerned, the Commission shall be authorized to negotiate, in accordance with Article 130n of the Treaty, international agreements laying down the terms of such cooperation.

Priority will also be given to co-operation with EFTA countries and European countries not members of the European Community and in accordance with the guidelines agreed between the Council of Ministers and the European Parliament.

The negotiations for such international agreements may only be initiated with third countries which are already signatories of an agreement with the Community which explicitly cites research and technological development or scientific progress as one of the objectives of cooperation.

Decisions on the conclusion of such agreements shall be adopted in accordance with the procedure referred to in Article 130q(2) of the Treaty.

Decisions on the conclusion of such international agreements shall be adopted in accordance with the procedure referred to in Article 130q(2) of the Treaty.

Text proposed by the Commission

Text amended by Parliament

(Amendment No. 13)

ANNEX I, Area 1, first paragraph, last sentence

This area focuses on the following subjects:

This area builds on and extends the RACE programme and focuses on the following subjects:

Text proposed by the Commission

Text amended by Parliament

(Amendment No. 14)

ANNEX I, Area 1, fifth paragraph, first sentence

This work will support standardization efforts, particularly those of the European Telecommunications Standards Institute (ETSI).

This work will give priority to supporting standardization efforts, particularly those of the European Telecommunications Standards Institute (ETSI). As a matter of principle, this prenormative standardization work should cover as many third countries as possible.

Text proposed by the Commission

Text amended by Parliament

(Amendment No. 15)

ANNEX I, Area 1, seventh paragraph, final sentence

The work will enable ATM switching technology to support connectionless services and the interconnection of local area networks (LANs) and metropolitan area networks (MANs).

The work will enable ATM switching technology to support connectionless services and the interconnection of local area networks (LANs) and metropolitan area networks (MANs). This development of ATM does not exclude basic research on new switching technologies or designs.

Text proposed by the Commission

Text amended by Parliament

(Amendment No. 16)
ANNEX I, Area 2

This research will be related to the development and demonstration of techniques needed for the introduction of 'programmable networks'. It will include the development of techniques for enhancing intelligence and flexibility, both in the provision of network services and in network management and operations; in the latter case, the work will cover aspects of operations support systems (OSS) and telecommunications management networks (TMN).

This research will be related to the use of new techniques for information transfer, optical communications and, possibly, artificial intelligence with a view to enhancing flexibility in respect of both provision of new network services and network management.

These technological projects will have the objective of paving the way for second-generation systems and contributing to the standardisation and definition of interconnection protocols.

This research will be related to the development and demonstration of techniques needed for the introduction of 'programmable networks' and will cover aspects of provision of new services, operations support systems (OSS) and telecommunications management networks (TMN).

Text proposed by the Commission

Text amended by Parliament

(Amendment No. 17)

ANNEX I, Area 3, third and fourth sentences

The work will focus on the development of advanced functionality for the enhanced and integrated use of IBC and radio networks (e.g. interconnection standards and mobility management) and the miniaturization of terminal technology, with particular emphasis on low power consumption. Close attention will be given to the needs of different kinds of users.

The work will focus on the development of advanced functionality for the enhanced and integrated use of IBC and radio networks (e.g. interconnection standards and mobility management) and the miniaturization of terminal technology. The terminals should be cost-effective for professional and consumer use, with particular emphasis on low power consumption and efficient use of frequencies. Close attention will be given to the needs of different kinds of users and, especially, the requirements of pan-European access, necessitating truly compatible services and protocols.

Text proposed by the Commission

Text amended by Parliament

(Amendment No. 18)

ANNEX I, Area 4, third sentence

It will include coding and presentation techniques for still, moving and three-dimensional images, notably in HDTV.

It will focus on digital HDTV, including coding and presentation techniques for still, moving and three-dimensional images. In the specific case of HDTV, the objective is to secure cooperation between all the parties concerned and, with a high degree of efficiency, develop technologies and make them available in up-to-date, user-friendly form.

Text proposed by the Commission

Text amended by Parliament

(Amendment No. 19)

ANNEX I, Area 5, first paragraph a (new)

The objective of this research is to contribute to the definition of common functional specifications for new communication services and multi-media systems. In particular, work will have to be done on specifications for use and, more generally, on the design of services and their links with networks.

Text proposed by the Commission

Text amended by Parliament

(Amendment No. 20)

ANNEX I, Area 6, second paragraph a (new)

The priority in this area is to develop technologies for information security in line with actions which are carried out in the other specific programmes.

Text proposed by the Commission

Text amended by Parliament

(Amendment No. 21)

ANNEX I, Area 7, final paragraph, final sentence

The resulting experience will form a basis for the relevant telecommunications sector organizations in planning the standardization, implementation and operation of integrated broadband communications.

The resulting experience will form a basis for the relevant telecommunications sector organizations in planning the standardization, implementation and operation of integrated broadband communications. These experiments should take into account the foreseeable conditions of the market in order to obtain results.

PROPOSED BY THE COMMISSION

Text amended by Parliament

(Amendment No. 27)

ANNEX III, point 4, second paragraph

(Modified Form)

The Commission shall determine in each case whether the management of the programme, or parts thereof, can be undertaken by organisations or institutions outside the Commission without delegating its decision-making powers.

Text proposed by the Commission

Text amended by Parliament

(Amendment No. 28)

ANNEX III, point 4, fifth and sixth paragraphs

The exceptional procedure must be completed before the ordinary procedure in such a way that the available amount for the Community's financial participation in projects retained by the ordinary procedure can be determined precisely. The closing date for the exceptional procedure shall be published each year in the Official Journal of the European Communities.

The amount of the financial participation of the Community for all the projects retained by the exceptional procedure will be decided each year, in relation to the projects selected according to particularly strict criteria of excellence. In any case, this amount may not exceed 15%. It may be revised each year in the light of experience.

The exceptional procedure shall come into effect after the first call for proposals and must be completed before the ordinary procedure in such a way that the available amount for the Community's financial participation in projects retained by the ordinary procedure can be determined precisely. The closing date for the exceptional procedure shall be published each year in the Official Journal of the European Communities.

The amount of the financial participation of the Community for all the projects retained by the exceptional procedure will be decided each year, in relation to the projects selected according to particularly strict criteria of excellence. In any case, this amount may not exceed 10% of the annual budget appropriation.

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