
EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

1980 - 1981

9 February 1981

DOCUMENT 1-833/80

Report

drawn up on behalf of the Committee on Energy and Research

on the proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council (Doc. 1-361/80) for a Decision amending Decision 80/318/EURATOM of 13 March 1980 adopting a research and training programme (1979 to 1983) for the European Atomic Energy Community in the field of controlled thermonuclear fusion

Rapporteur: Mr K. FUCHS

12.1

By letter of 13 August 1980 the Council of the European Communities requested the European Parliament to deliver an opinion on the proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council (Doc.1-361/80) for a decision amending Decision 80/318/EURATOM of 13 March 1980 adopting a research and training programme (1979 to 1983) for the European Atomic Energy Community in the field of controlled thermonuclear fusion.

The President of the European Parliament referred this proposal to the Committee on Energy and Research as the committee responsible and to the Committee on Budgets for its opinion.

On 24 November 1980 the Committee on Energy and Research appointed Mr Fuchs rapporteur.

It considered the report at its meeting of 20 January 1981 and adopted the motion for a resolution and the proposed amendment to the Commission's text by 22 votes to 2.

Present: Mrs Walz, chairman; Mr Gallagher and Mr Normanton, vice-chairmen; Mr Adam, Mr Coppieters (deputizing for Mrs Bonino), Mr Fuchs, Mr Georgiadis (deputizing for Mr Linde), Mr Griffiths (deputizing for Mr Percheron), Mr Linkohr, Mrs Lizin, Mr Moreland, Mr Müller-Hermann, Mr Pedini (deputizing for Mr Vandewiele), Mr Pintat, Mr Pisani, Mr Price, Mr Purvis, Mr Rinsche, Mr Sälzer, Mr Sassano, Mr Schmid, Mr Seligman, Sir Peter Vanneck (deputizing for Mr Beazley), Mr Veronesi and Mrs Viehoff (deputizing for Mr Petersen).

The opinion of the Committee on Budgets is attached.

The Committee on Energy and Research hereby submits to the European Parliament the following motion for a resolution together with explanatory statement:

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

embodying the opinion of the European Parliament on the proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council for a decision amending Decision 80/318/EURATOM of 13 March 1980 adopting a research and training programme (1979 to 1983) for the European Atomic Energy Community in the field of controlled thermonuclear fusion

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council¹,
 - having been consulted by the Council (Doc. 1-361/80),
 - having regard to its earlier opinions, in particular on the proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council (Doc. 508/78) for a research and training programme (1979 to 1983) for the European Atomic Energy Community in the field of controlled thermonuclear fusion²,
 - having regard to the report of its Committee on Energy and Research and the opinion of the Committee on Budgets (Doc.1-833/80),
1. Deplores the increase in expenditure on the JET project caused by inflation;
 2. Considers this expenditure essential, however, for the planned research project to proceed;
 3. Points out that the present Commission proposal only became necessary because the Council 'fixed' expenditure in a programme decision and that otherwise a straightforward adjustment could have been made in the framework of the budgetary procedure;
 4. Reaffirms its support for the energy policy objectives of the JET project;
 5. Reserves the right, however, to reconsider the problems of thermonuclear fusion particularly in relation to new discoveries

¹ OJ No C 220, 28.8.1980, p.10

² OJ No C 93, 9.4.1979, p.69

Proposal for a Council decision amending
Decision 80/318/EURATOM of 13 March 1980
adopting a research and training pro-
gramme (1979 to 1983) for the European
Atomic Energy Community in the field of
controlled thermonuclear fusion

Preamble unchanged

Sole Article

Paragraph 2 of Article 2 of
Decision 80/318/EURATOM is repla-
ced by the following paragraph:

'The global needs for the construc-
tion phase of JET in its basic
performance during the programme
period are estimated at 195 mil-
lion European units of account
including a minimum of 86-40
million European units of account
from the amounts referred to in
the second paragraph of Article 4,
and 150 temporary servants with-
in the meaning of Article 2(a) of
the conditions of employment of
other servants of the European
Communities. These figures are
of an indicative nature only'

Sole Article

Paragraph 2 of Article 2 of Decision
80/318/EURATOM is replaced by the
following paragraph:

'The global needs for the construction
phase of JET in its basic performance
during the programme period are esti-
mated at 195 million European units
of account including a minimum of
86-40 million European units of account
from the amounts referred to in the
second paragraph of Article 4, and 150
temporary servants within the meaning
of Article 2(a) of the conditions of
employment of other servants of the
European Communitites. These figures
are of an indicative nature only
and may be adjusted in the annual
budgetary procedure.'

Annex unchanged

¹ OJ No C 220, 28.8.1980, p.10

II. From the point of view of energy policy the Commission's proposal for a Council Decision adds nothing to the original programme on which the European Parliament delivered a largely favourable opinion in the NOE report (Doc. 581/78). In its explanatory memorandum however, the Commission states that the director of the JET project considers that there is a need for diagnostic equipment and additional staff. It also points out that an extended performance of JET and the operational phase of the project will involve further costs which have as yet to be specified in detail. These four items (diagnostic equipment, additional staff, extended performance and operational phase) have not yet progressed to a point at which a decision can be taken. For the time being therefore the Committee on Energy and Research would simply reiterate that the principles laid out in the NOE report are still valid. The Commission has already taken account of a number of suggestions made by Parliament in that opinion. The committee expects this trend to continue in the new five-year programme (1982 to 1986) for the European Atomic Community in the field of controlled thermonuclear fusion.

The Commission has announced that it will submit a draft programme by 1 July 1981 at the latest. The Committee reserves the right when discussing this research programme to carry out a fundamental investigation of the uses and design of a fusion reactor, particularly in view of new technological developments in relation to the various types of fusion reactor and alternative types of reactor such as fast-breeders and hybrid reactors.

The Committee on Budgets once again draws attention to the irrational course pursued by the Council in adopting prescriptive texts of this kind and welcomes the proposal from the Commission, which is formulated in the manner requested by Parliament.

In order to ensure that it does not once again become necessary to amend the Council decision, the Committee on Budgets proposes that there should be a further addition to the closing words of the Article which is to be amended, clearly illustrating the indicative nature of the figures. This text reads as follows:

'These figures are of an indicative nature only
and may be adjusted to take account of trends in
costs in the annual budgetary procedure'.

With this amendment, the Committee on Budgets approved the Commission's proposal. In doing so, it was conscious of the fact that the new estimate does not include the cost of any extended performance of the facility or the operational costs after 1983. Further proposals will have to be submitted by the Commission on these subjects, which the Committee on Budgets will consider at greater length at the appropriate time.

Yours sincerely,

(sgd) Erwin LANGE

Present: Mr Lange, chairman; Mr Notenboom, vice-chairman; Mr Arndt, Mr Fich, Mr Flanagan, Mr Forth, Mrs Hoff, Mr R. Jackson, Mr Newton-Dunn, Mr Nord, Mr Pfennig, Mr Konrad Schön, Mrs Scrivener, Mr J.M. Taylor and Mr Tuckman.