EC/Egypt agreement: scientific and technological cooperation

2007/0124(CNS) - 25/06/2007 - Legislative proposal

PURPOSE: to conclude an Agreement on scientific and technological cooperation between the European Community and the Arab Republic of Egypt.

PROPOSED ACT: Council Decision.

BACKGROUND: The Euro-Mediterranean Agreement establishing an association between the European Communities and their Member States, on the one part, and the Arab Republic of Egypt, on the other part, was signed on 25 June 2001 (see AVC/2001/0092). Article 43 of the Agreement identifies scientific and technological cooperation as an area of particular interest and potential, and provides, amongst other things, for the establishment of permanent links between the parties' scientific communities.

On 14 November 2002, the Commission initiated the procedure for obtaining a negotiating mandate for such an agreement on scientific and technological cooperation and on 14 April 2003 the Council adopted a decision authorising the Commission to negotiate an agreement on scientific and technological cooperation with Egypt.

The negotiations culminated in the draft Agreement and Annexes attached hereto, which were signed on 21 June 2005 in Cairo.

CONTENT: the Parties shall encourage, develop and facilitate cooperative activities between the Community and Egypt in fields of common interest where they are pursuing research and development activities in science and technology.

Cooperative activities shall be conducted on the basis of the following principles:

- promotion of a knowledge-based society to foster the social and economic development of both Parties;
- mutual benefit based on an overall balance of advantages;
- reciprocal access to the activities of research programmes and projects undertaken by each Party;
- timely exchange of information which may affect cooperative activities.
- appropriate exchange and protection of intellectual property rights.

Participation of legal entities established in Egypt to indirect actions of the EC Framework programme shall follow the conditions laid down by the European Parliament and the Council according to Article 167 of the Treaty establishing the European Community.

It should also be noted that Regulation No 1/1958obliges the European Community to draft documents of general application in the official languages of all the Member States. The Agreement should be concluded in such a way that the languages of the new Member States are authentic. This will be done via an exchange of letters.

The Agreement includes a series of annexes concerning:

1) Terms and conditions for the participation of legal entities of Member States of the European Union and of Egypt (including the terms and conditions for the participation of legal entities of Egypt to indirect

actions of the EC Framework programme and terms and conditions for the participation of Member States of the European Union to Egypt research programmes and projects).

2) Principles on the allocation of intellectual property rights.