Research and technological development: setting up the ENIAC Joint Undertaking, nanoelectronics

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The Council agreed on a "general approach" (substantial elements of the legal acts) on four proposals aimed at establishing joint technology initiatives (JTIs) in the following fields:

- Innovative medicines ("IMI")
- Embedded computing systems ("ARTEMIS
- Nanoelectronic technologies ("ENIAC")
- Aeronautics and air transport ("CLEAN SKY")

The agreement on the general approach paves the way for adopting the final Decisions as soon as possible after receiving the European Parliament's opinions, in order to enable a swift start to the four JTIs in early 2008.

According to the agreement reached today, the JTIs would have the following common features:

- The JTIs should be set up under Community law as Community bodies. They should receive Community funding in order to implement the research programmes, notably by awarding funding to selected projects, following publication of calls for proposals.
- They will take the form of real public / private partnerships with a shared responsibility of industry in the management of the joint undertakings. EU Member States and the Commission will exercise appropriate supervision over the use of public funds.
- They will have a limited duration of 10 years.
- JTIs will not have the status of international organisations.
- JTIs will have legal personality and will be established on the basis of Articles 171 and 172 of the EC Treaty.
- They will implement the research programmes by combining public and private funding.

- The Community will contribute to both the research activities and the running costs.