EC/Switzerland agreement: scientific and technological cooperation, EC/Euratom 5th framework programme

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On 3 April 2000, the Council presented the single and consolidated legislative instrument with the purpose of the approval of 7 agreements between the Community and its Member States, on the one hand, and the Swiss Confederation, on the other. This proposal for a decision integrates within a single legal instrument the 7 proposals for decision previously presented by the Commission by introducing the required amended text and procedures with a view to the proper implementation of the various agreements in question. The Council decision specifies the internal procedures for the proper operation of each of the agreements: in this context, certain tasks will be accorded to joint committees set up by the agreements (in particular, competence for the amendment of certain aspects of their sectorial annexes). The Commission would be enabled to proceed with necessary technical amendments and to adopt appropriate decisions for the implementation of the agreements. In specific cases, the Council will reserve the right to itself determine the Community's position upon proposal from the Commission (in particular, in the area of the free movement of persons). With the exception of the agreement on the free movement of persons which requires ratification by national parliaments and the European Parliament, the agreements will have to be ratified by the European Parliament because they fall within Community competence. As all the agreements were negotiated together, they will be concluded and will enter into force on the same date. There are, therefore, no provisional measures to be taken before the entry into force of the abovementioned agreements. It should be noted that this is the only one of these seven agreements to be approved in the name of the Community and EURATOM, in view of the competences covered by the agreement.