EC/Israel agreement: scientific and technical cooperation agreement

2003/0220(CNS) - 29/09/2003 - Legislative proposal

PURPOSE : to renew the agreement on scientific and technological cooperation with Israel. PROPOSED ACT : Council Decision. CONTENT : by its Decision 1999/224/EC, the Council concluded an Agreement on Scientific and Technical Cooperation between the European Community and the State of Israel, which entered into force on 8 March 1999 (refer to CNS/1998/0241). The Agreement associates the State of Israel with all the activities of the specific programmes of the 5th Framework Programme of the European Community for research, technological development and demonstration activities. Article 12, paragraph 4 of the Agreement provides that "where the Community adopts a new multiannual framework programme for research and development, this Agreement may be renegotiated or renewed under mutually agreed conditions. On 29 March 2002 the State of Israel submitted an official request to the Commission for the renewal of the Agreement associating Israel with the activities of the 5th Framework Programme of the European Community. The renewed Agreement would associate the State of Israel with all the activities of the specific programmes of the 6th Framework Programme of the European Community for research, technological development and demonstration activities (2002-2006). In the context of the renewal of the Agreement on Scientific and Technical Cooperation associating Israel with the Framework Programme, the new Agreement has simply been adapted to the specific features of the 6th Framework Programme, namely: - participation of Israel in all the instruments of the 6th Framework Programme concerning indirect actions, including the instrument concerning the application of Article 169 of the EC Treaty; - participation of Israeli representatives as observers in the CREST Committee (without voting rights). It should be noted that the participation of Israeli representatives in the other committees implementing the Framework Programme - advisory committees, expert committees and comitology committees (as observers) - was already provided for in the earlier Agreement; - intellectual property rules extended to cover reciprocity and the instrument concerning the application of Article 169; - provisional application of the agreement (at the time of signature) with the effective date set at 16 December 2002 to enable Israeli legal entities to participate right from the start of the 6th Framework Programme so that the European and Israeli scientific communities can make the most of this participation; - lastly, the financial participation conditions of Israel with the 6th Framework Programme are identical to those relating to its association with the fifth framework programme. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS : - budget line : B6-6013/08 01 05 03 : the contributions of Israeli entities to direct and indirect actions, as well as costs in connection with the implementation of the Agreement (travelling expenses of European experts and of EC officials on mission, workshops, seminars, meetings) will be charged to the specific budget headings of the specific programmes of the European Community RTD Framework Programme; - period of application : 2002-2006; - financial envelope : EUR 660 000/year including the EU experts'missions to Israel (EUR 560 000) and EU officials' missions to Israel (EUR 88 000). The remaining amou of EUR 12 000 be used to cover workshops and seminars. Israel's financial contribution to the Framework Programme will be proportionate to its GDP compared with the sum of its GDP and the GDP of the EU Member States. Concerning the impact on staff and administrative expenditure, the Commission is not requesting any additional posts for the management of the Agreement. No officials are being specifically assigned to manage the Agreement. It will be managed by the staff authorised for the Sixth Framework Programme.