EC and EAEC/Canada/Sweden/Ukraine/US agreement: EAEC and EC accession to the Science and Technology Centre in Ukraine

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In 1993, Canada, the USA, Sweden and Ukraine signed an agreement establishing the Science and Technology Centre in the Ukraine (STCU). The purpose of this centre is to facilitate the conversion of research workers to civilian forms of research. The target group is scientists and engineers in the new independent states, who were directly or indirectly involved in the development of weapons of mass destruction. Now, the Commission is proposing that Sweden will relinquish its seat on the STCU Governing Board when the EU assumes its seat. At present, STCU is examining more than 300 project proposals and 85 projects are being funded for a total investment worth 18,5m US dollars involving more than 1300 scientists. Current projects are in the field of environmental monitoring and protection and medicine and health care, as well as biological technologies. The financial statement of the Commission shows that ECU 3 million were earmarked for this operation from the 1997 budget. The operation will be included in the Tacis budget for 1997 and payments were or will be made in the years 1997-1999. Although the rapporteur is of the opinion that the Commission kept Parliament inadequately informed on the negotiations, the recommends the proposal be approved. Parliament must be better informed on future developments in the STCU's operations.