EC/Israel agreement: scientific and technical cooperation agreement for the duration of the 5th framework programme

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By adopting Godelieve QUISTHOUDT-ROWOHL's (EPP, D) report, the Committeeapproved the proposal concluding an agreement for scientific and technical cooperation between the EU and Israel. The agreement foresees the participation of Israeli research entities in the Fifth Framework Programme under the same conditions as for research entities in the Community. The Euratom fusion and nuclear safety programmes are excluded from the agreement. The effect of the EU-Israel agreement concluded in 1996 was to associate a non-European country fully with the Community's research framework programme for the first time. With a view to the conclusion of the Fourth Framework Programme and the coming into effect of the Fifth Programme 1998-2002, the agreement should now be renewed for the duration of the 5th programme. Since the agreement was concluded, a total of 369 EU-Israel project have received funding totalling ECU 53 434 m. The rapporteur emphasized that regular contact between the European Parliament and the Knesset should be established in order to monitor and promote research policy cooperation at parliamentary level. To support the peace process in Israel, cooperation between Israeli and Palestinian research institutions should continue. Earlier, the Israeli Ambassador to the EU, Mr Harry KNEY-TAL told the Committee that involving Palestianian researchers in the agreement was of vital importance to the peace process and that the Israeli governement would endorse such joint projects.