European research area: research and training activities, framework programme EURATOM 2002-2006

2001/0054(CNS) - 16/10/2001

The committee adopted the report by Gérard CAUDRON (PES, F) broadly approving the proposal under the consultation procedure, subject to a few amendments. These called for the funds for research into thermonuclear fusion provided for in the proposal to be increased by EUR 100m (making a total of EUR 800m), thereby maintaining funding for this important research activity at the level provided for in the 5th framework programme. The committee also wanted the proposal to attach greater importance to the safety of existing nuclear reactors, with priority for reactors in the candidate countries, as well as reactors of the new generation. Moreover, it felt that the proposal should be complemented with a further emphasis on gender equality and cooperation with the candidate countries. Another key point raised in the report was the need for budgetary transparency and accountability. The Commission was urged to present a programming report each year on all activities to be financed under Heading 3 of the financial perspective, with a separate budget line for each specific programme, as well as an annual report on financial implementation. It should also inform the budgetary authority in advance whenever it intended to depart from the breakdown of expenditure stated in the general budget.