EC/Canada agreement: scientific and technical cooperation agreement

1995/0227(CNS) - 11/09/1995 - Legislative proposal

OBJECTIVE: to promote cooperation on research and technological development between the Community and Canada in respect of joint research projects in areas covered by the Community's Fourth framework programme on research and development. SUBSTANCE: the agreement, signed on 17 June 1995 in Halifax by the Commission on behalf of the Community, is intended to enable the Community and Canada to exploit, on the basis of the principle of mutual benefit, the scientific and technological progress made in the context of joint research programmes due to the participation of the Canadian scientific community and Canadian industry in Community research projects, and the independent and non-subsidised participation of organisations established in the Community in Canadian research projects. . Joint research projects shall proceed under this agreement only after prior conclusion of a joint technology management plan (JTMP) agreed jointly by the parties and covering, inter alia, intellectual property rights and the use of information generated by the joint research projects. An appendix to the Annex to the agreement sets out the indicative features of the JTMPs (contracts concluded between the participants in joint research). . There is provision for the exchange of information relevant to the objectives of the agreement, and for effective protection of intellectual property rights or fair arrangements for sharing such rights and the economic and social advantages deriving from them (having regard to the participants' respective contribution). . The Annex to the agreement contains provisions concerning the dissemination and utilisation of information deriving from joint research projects (with particular reference to the information participants wish to remain undisclosed). . The intended beneficiaries are the scientific community, industry and the general public, due to the direct and indirect effects of cooperation. Such cooperation will take the form of: - participation of persons and legal entities, universities, research institutions, etc. and the parties themselves in joint research projects, - shared use of research facilities, - visits and exchanges of scientists for the purpose of participating in seminars and workshops relevant to cooperation, - exchange of information on practices, laws and programmes relevant to cooperation under the agreement, - other activities as may be mutually determined. .The duration of the agreement is not specified, but there is a clause to the effect that the agreement may be terminated by either party (or both) upon written notice (12 months). . A joint committee (JSTCC) is set up and administers the agreement. . On the Community side, the agreement is to be funded from the Community budget subject to annual budget availability (the financial envelope provides for a total of ECU 55 000 /year).