EC/Israel agreement: scientific and technical cooperation agreement

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OBJECTIVE: conclusion of an EC/Israel agreement for scientific and technical cooperation providing for the participation of Israeli research entities in specific programmes adopted under the Fourth Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development and, on a reciprocal basis, the participation of Community research entities in Israeli research programmes. CONTENT: this agreement was signed by the Commission on behalf of the Community on 25 March 1996 and is designed to enable the Community and Israel to derive mutual benefit from the scientific and technical progress achieved through their reciprocal research programmes, with participation by the Israeli scientific community and industry in Community research programmes and independent and non-subsidised participation in Israeli research activity by bodies established in the Community. . The beneficiaries in the Community and Israel will be the scientific communities, industry and the population in general due to the direct and indirect impact of cooperation. . Provision is made for the protection of intellectual property and for the dissemination and use of information gathered as a result of the research projects. . The duration of the agreement corresponds to the duration of the Fourth Framework Programme for Research (i.e. three years from 1996). However, a clause is included to allow one or other party (or both) to terminate the agreement upon 12 months' notice. . A EC-Israel joint research committee is established to manage the activities proposed under the agreement. Similarly, Israel is invited to participate in the various management committees for the specific programmes covered by the Fourth Framework Programme for Research. . The agreement is financed, on the Community side, from the EC budget for the Fourth Framework Programme for Research (the financial statement allocates a total of ECU 1.59 million, that is, ECU 530 000 per year in 1996, 1997 and 1998). Israel's contribution to the budget of the Fourth Framework Programme will be in proportion to its GNP compared to that of the Union and in proportion to the funding of the specific programmes under the Fourth Framework Programme.