EC/South Africa agreement: scientific and technological cooperation agreement

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OBJECTIVE: to promote scientific and technological cooperation between the Community and the Republic of South Africa in the framework of joint research projects in fields covered by the Fourth Community framework R & D programme (1994-1998) and other subsequent framework programmes. SUBSTANCE: the agreement signed by the Commission on behalf of the Community on 5 December 1996 in Brussels is intended to enable the Community and South Africa to profit, on the basis of mutual benefit, from the scientific and technological progress made under the joint research programmes through: . the participation of South African research entities in RTD projects related to the Fourth Framework Programme and the reciprocal participation of Community research entities in South African projects, .the participation by South African research entities in the specific programme of RTD in the field of cooperation with third countries (in this specific case South Africa will be considered a developing country), . shared use of research facilities, . visits and exchanges of research workers, participation by experts in seminars, symposia, etc., . establishment of scientific networks and training of researchers, . exchange of information on laws and regulations relevant to scientific cooperation, . any other project of joint interest agreed by the parties. - No joint research project will be valid within the meaning of this agreement without the prior conclusion of a Joint Technology Management Plan (JTMP) decided by common agreement between the parties and including at least the principles governing intellectual property and the utilization of information derived from the joint research. An annex to the agreement sets out the principles governing the JTMP (contracts concluded between the participants in a joint research project). - Provision is made for the exchange of information relevant to the aims of the agreement and the effective protection of intellectual property or the fair allocation of the rights to this property and the economic and social benefits derived from it (taking account of the respective contributions of the participants). - Provisions are made with regard to the dissemination and utilization of information from joint research projects (in particular information not to be disclosed). - The beneficiaries are the scientific community, the industrial sector and the general public, through the direct and indirect effects of cooperation. - The agreement is concluded for the duration of the Fourth Community Framework Programme (1994-1998) and can be renewed by tacit agreement for the specific programmes implementing subsequent framework research programmes. One clause provides that one of the parties (or both) may terminate the agreement upon a six months written notice. - A Joint Committee (JSTCC) is set up to manage the activities envisaged by the agreement. - For the Community, the agreement is funded from the Union's budget (specifically the Cooperation section of the Fourth Framework Programme) and subject to the funds available annually under the budget (the financial statement provides for an amount annually of ECU 110 000). It does not involve any transfer of funds from one party to another (except in the case of the participation of South African research centres in the specific RTD project relating to cooperation with third countries and international organizations where the Community alone finances the projects).