Research RTD, 5th EC framework-programme 1998-2002: specific programme "innovation and participation of SMEs"

1998/0182(CNS) - 10/06/1998 - Legislative proposal

OBJECTIVE: to adopt a specific programme for research, technological development and demonstration on 'Promotion of innovation and encouragement of participation of SMEs' (1998 to 2002). SUBSTANCE: with a view to the implementation of the fifth framework programme of R&TD, the Commission proposes adopting a specific programme on 'promotion of innovation and encouragement of participation of SMEs' for the period 1998-2002. The amount deemed necessary for the implementation of the specific programme is ECU 350 m (ECU 73.8 m for 1998-1999; ECU 276.2 m for 2000-2002). The strategic objective of the programme is to improve the economic and social impact of research and development activities by ensuring better dissemination and exploitation of their results, satisfactory participation by SMEs and transfer and dissemination of technologies from various sources, taking account of the needs of consumers and users. The activities will mainly concern the following aspects: a one-stop entry point for participation by SMEs; support and assistance instruments; economic intelligence; a European network for the promotion of research and innovation; electronic information services; intellectual property; access to private innovation financing; schemes to facilitate the setting-up and development of innovative firms.