Resaerch RTD, 5th framework-programme EC 1998-2002: research, technological development and demonstration activities

1997/0119(COD) - 03/07/1998 - Commission opinion on Parliament's position at 2nd reading

The Commission notes the convergence of views between the three Institutions on the structure and scientific and technical content of the Framework Programme. The broad strategic guidelines set out in the Commission's proposal are confirmed by Parliament's second reading; the need to concentrate efforts is reaffirmed, as are the key actions which are essential components of the thematic programmes. The Commission also points out that Parliament supports its proposal to assign to the Fifth Framework Programme an overall budget of ECU 16.3 billion, whereas the Council's common position gives a figure of ECU 14 billion. In view of this, the Commission has opted to maintain its amended proposal of 14 January 1998 and not to incorporate in it amendments other than the ones it had already taken over following the first reading. The Commission is aware that further efforts to achieve convergence between Parliament and the Council will have to be made on the basis of the amendments arising from Parliament's second reading and it is determined to work towards an overall compromise in the context of the conciliation procedure.