EC/China agreement: scientific and technological cooperation agreement

1999/0123(CNS) - 11/06/1999 - Legislative proposal

PURPOSE: conclusion of a scientific and technological cooperation agreement with the People's Republic of China. CONTENT: The essential objective of the draft agreement is to stimulate RTD cooperation between the European Community and the People's Republic of China in research projects covered by the framework programme. The proposed agreement would be concluded for an initial period of five years and may be renewed by common agreement between the parties (tacit renewal) after evaluation during the penultimate year of each successive period. The agreement is founded on: - mutual benefit based on an overall balance of advantages; - reciprocal access to the activities of RTD undertaken by each Party; - timely exchange of information which may affect cooperative activities; - appropriate protection of intellectual property rights. Subject to their applicable laws, regulations and policies, the Parties shall foster, to the fullest extent possible, the involvement of participants in cooperative activities under this Agreement with a view to providing comparable opportunities for participation in their scientific and technological R&D activities. Cooperative activities may take the following forms: - participation of Chinese research entities in RTD projects under the first activity of the Framework Programme and reciprocal participation of European research entities in Chinese projects in the same sector of RTD. - pooling of RTD projects already implemented. - visits and exchanges of scientists and technical experts. - joint organisation of scientific seminars, conferences, symposia and workshops, as well as participation of experts in those activities. - concerted actions. - exchanges and sharing of equipment and materials. - exchnages of information on practices, laws, regulations and programmes relevant to cooperation under this Agreement. - any other modality that would be recommended by the Steering Committee and deemed in conformity with the policies and procedures applicable in both Parties. The joint RTD projects will be implemented when the participants have developed a technology management plan, as indicated in the Annex of the Agreement. The Annex also lays down the rules regarding the ownership, allocation and exercise of intellectual property rights.