EC/Canada agreement: scientific and technical cooperation agreement

1995/0227(CNS) - 26/02/1996 - Final act

OBJECTIVE: to promote scientific and technological cooperation between the European Community and Canada in respect of joint research projects in areas covered by the Fourth EC research and development framework programme. SUBSTANCE: the agreement, signed on 17 June 1995 in Halifax, is intended to enable the Community and Canada to exploit, on the basis of the principle of mutual benefit, the scientific and technological progress made in the context of joint research programmes due to the participation of the Canadian scientific community and Canadian industry in Community research projects, and the independent and non-subsidized participation of organizations established in the Community in Canadian research projects. Joint research projects shall proceed under this agreement only after prior conclusion of a joint technology management plan agreed jointly by the parties and covering, inter alia, intellectual property rights and the use of information generated by the joint research projects. An appendix to the Annex to the agreement sets out the indicative features of joint technology management plans (JTMPs) (contracts concluded between the participants in joint research). There is provision for the exchange of information relevant to the objectives of the agreement, and for effective protection of intellectual property rights or for fair arrangements for sharing such rights, and the economic and social advantages deriving from them (having regard to the participants' respective contribution). The Annex to the agreement contains provisions concerning the dissemination and utilization of information deriving from joint research projects (with particular reference to the information participants wish to remain undisclosed). The intended beneficiaries are the scientific community, industry and the general public, due to the direct and indirect effects of cooperation. Such cooperation will take the form of: - participation of persons and legal entities, universities, research institutions etc. and the parties themselves in joint research projects, - shared use of research facilities, - visits and exchanges of scientists for the purpose of participating in seminars and workshops relevant to cooperation, - exchange of information on practices, laws and programmes relevant to cooperation under the agreement, - other activities as may be mutually determined. The duration of the agreement is not specified, but there is a clause to the effect that the agreement may be terminated by either party upon 12 months' written notice. The agreement is administered by a Joint Science and Technology Cooperation Committee set up by it. On the Community side, the agreement is to be funded from the Community budget 'subject to Annual budget disponibilities'. ENTRY INTO FORCE: 27 February 1996