Specific research programme: transport (1994-1998)

1994/0090(CNS) - 18/11/1994 - Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading

"Horizontal" amendments to the specific programmes. As with its consideration of the 12 specific programmes approved by the EP at the end of the previous parliamentary term, the EP adopted horizontal amendments which dealt with the same issues but which were located in different places in the texts of the individual projects. These amendments related to: 1) the EP's prerogatives with regard to the budget: the Committee on Research felt that the final amounts for the programmes should be adopted by the budgetary authority in accordance with the resources available under the financial perspective and the relative priority laid down for the fields covered by the various programmes. 2) the progress made in implementing the programmes: as far as the committee was concerned, any increase in the overall maximum amount of the Fourth Framework Programme for RTD would depend, in particular, on the evaluation of the progress made in implementing the programmes; in this respect, it stressed that for the progress to be deemed satisfactory, it was important for the first commitments of appropriations to be effected within a period of 12 months following the adoption of the programme in question. 3) the need to speed up the selection procedures and make them more transparent: it was important to simplify and speed up the application and selection procedures in order to make it easier for small and medium-sized entreprises, research centres and universities to take part in the specific programmes. 4) information for the EP: the work programme drawn up by the Commission setting out in detail the scientific and technological objectives and specifying the stages in the implementation of the programme as well as the proposed financial arrangements should be forwarded to the EP along with any updated versions. 5) comitology: the EP reiterated its support for consultative committees rather than regulatory committees. It also recommended that any expenses involved in taking part in the committees should be borne by the Member States. 6) international agreements: the EP proposed extending the scope of the negotiations undertaken by the Commission with a view to involving, through international agreements, third countries in Europe in the RTD programmes, so as to also include third countries in the Mediterranean. Transport. Through other amendments, the EP stressed that research on improving the transport system should be compatible with enhancing the quality of life. To achieve this, research should focus on regional planning, housing and urban planning problems. The improvement of urban transport should form part of an overall approach to urban problems. This should consist of specific experiments to improve urban transport in a number of pilot towns selected throughout the Community. The EP also stated that the Community transport network should be linked up with that of the countries of Central and Eastern Europe. With regard to the programme's objectives, the EP supported the optimisation of the trans-European networks and improved productivity of modes of transport and individual operators. It called for greater integration of the modes of transport, better accessibility for users and the development of a multimodal system at urban, rural, regional and trans-European level. The research should contribute to the implementation of a transport policy that catered for the requirements of users, improved safety, reduced the harmful effects of such systems and was compatible with the protection of the environment. It should make use of innovations in order to achieve an integrated multimodal trans-European network. Before adopting any new projects, consideration should be given to the ecological and socio-economic criteria. With regard to air transport, the EP called for the definition of the objectives of European interest with the aim of overcoming congestion in the air space and at airports, improving safety for people and aircraft, minimising the impact on the environment, etc.