EC/South Africa agreement: scientific and technological cooperation agreement

1997/0112(CNS) - 10/11/1997 - Final act

OBJECTIVE: to promote scientific and technological cooperation between the European Community and South Africa through joint research projects in areas covered by the Community's framework research and development programme. COMMUNITY MEASURE: Council Decision 97/763/EC concluding the agreement for scientific and technological cooperation between the European Community and the Republic of South Africa. SUBSTANCE: the agreement, signed on 5 December 1996, is intended to allow the Community and South Africa, on the basis of the principle of mutual benefit, to take advantage of the scientific and technical progress achieved by joint research programmes, through: participation of South African research entities in RTD projects related to the Fourth Framework Programme and reciprocal participation of European Community research entities in South African projects; participation by South African research entities in the specific programme of RTD in the field of cooperation with third countries (in this specific case, South Africa will be regarded as a developing country); shared use of research facilities; visits and exchanges of research workers, seminars, etc.; scientific networks and training of researchers; exchange of information on laws and regulations relevant to scientific cooperation; all other projects of common interest as decided by the parties. For a research project to be acceptable under the agreement, the project partners must first agree on a joint technology management plan (JTMP), which must at least cover the principles of intellectual property protection and the use of information resulting from joint research. An annex to the agreement describes the essential features of JTMPs (contracts concluded between participants in joint research). Provision is made for the exchange of information and the effective protection of intellectual property, including economic and social advantages resulting from it. The agreement also contains provisions on the dissemination and utilization of information (in particular undisclosed information). At institutional level, the agreement makes provision for the establishing of a Joint Committee (JSTCC) to manage activities linked to the agreement. Regarding funding, there is no provision for the transfer of funds from one party to another (except in the case of participation by South African research entities in the specific programme of RTD in the field of cooperation with third countries and international organizations, when projects will be financed by the Community only). DURATION OF THE AGREEMENT AND ENTRY INTO FORCE: the agreement is concluded for the duration of the Fourth Framework Programme (1994-98) and may be tacitly extended for programmes implementing subsequent framework research programmes. It contains a clause allowing termination by either party (or both parties) with six months' notice in writing. The agreement enters into force on 11 November 1997.