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

1997/0119(COD) - 17/06/1998 - Text adopted by Parliament, 2nd reading

In adopting the recommendation for second reading by Mrs Godelieve QUISTHOUDT-ROWOHL (PPE, D) the European Parliament called for a maximum overall amount for Community participation of ECU 15 040 million. The Council proposed 12 740 million and the Commission proposed 14 833 million. The programme should apply to four areas: - the implementation of research technological development and demonstration programmes (ECU 12 000 million; the Council proposes ECU 10 039 million); - promotion of cooperation with third countries and international organizations regarding Community research to technological development in demonstration activities (ECU 500 million). The Council proposed ECU 458 million); - the dissemination and utilization of results of RTD activities (ECU 420 million; the Council proposes ECU 350 million); - measures to encourage the training and mobility of researchers in the Community (ECU 1320 million; the Council proposes ECU 1205 million). Parliament wishes to specify the objective of research activities within the framework programme: optimizing scientific and technical conditions for the international competitiveness of the EU, improving the quality of life of Community citizens and meeting the criteria of ecological sustainability. Parliament calls for the measures for the adoption of particular measures to encourage the effective participation of SMEs (for example the systematic consultation of SMEs by the Commission simplification of formalities and more transparent procedures). Concerning research activities Parliament calls for: - the introduction of criteria related to social development including measures to foster the participation of women in all fields of research and technological development; - health measures contributing to the fight against diseases relating to the environment and food in view of the immense costs arising therefrom (for example allergies); - consideration of the needs of the elderly and disabled; - the addition of a new key action concerning social changes brought about by the introduction of new information and communications technologies. The European Parliament, in adopting an amendment by the PPE Group by 394 votes to 124 and 13 abstentions, urges that no research activity which results in a modification of the genetic heritage of human beings by manipulation of germ cells or manipulation at another stage in embryonic development, which modification might become part of the genetic heritage will be carried out. It also pledges that no activity in the area of human cloning, that is to say the reproduction of human embryos carrying the same genetic information as another human being whether alive or dead be planned. It also calls for research which results in the destruction of embryos to be banned. Similarly, no European Union research funding should be used for the development or manufacture of weapons.