RTD 5th framework programme Euratom 1998-2002: research and training activities

1997/0120(CNS) - 17/12/1997 - Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading

In adopting the report by Mrs Godelieve QUISTHOUDT-ROWOHL (EPP, D) by 355 votes to 103 with 15 abstentions, Parliament set the financial reference amount for the implementation of the Euratom framework programme for 1998-2002 at ECU 1 300 million (of which ECU 326 million for the JCR). It should be noted that the Commission proposed a sum of ECU 1 460 million. If this amount is consistent with the financial perspective for the period 2000 - 2002 it will be deemed to be confirmed. In all other cases the annual appropriations allocated by the budgetary authority will be consistent with the financial perspective of each of those years. With regard to the criteria concerning social matters, Parliament proposed adding biodiversity and long-term ecological stability. With regard to the criteria concerning economic development and scientific and technological perspectives, Parliament wished the inclusion of areas which were expanding and creating sustainable development, areas in which Community business could become more competitive and areas in which prospects of significant technological progress were opening up, except in the military area. Parliament considered also that Chernobyl should serve internationally (including the European Union, Russia and the United States) as a first point of concentration for scientific and industrial R & D with regard to nuclear safety. It called on the Commission to prepare the ground for such an international venture. With regard to radiation protection Parliament called for emphasis to be placed on awareness of the hazards related to ionising radiation and especially the effects of low-dose radiation particularly the actual effects on human beings and general research on genomic instability and on the management of nuclear emergencies and the restoration of contaminated environments. With regard to controlled thermonuclear fusion it considered that the objective of the action should be the maintenance of scientific and technological expertise in this field with a view in the long term to the possible construction of safe, clean and economically competitive prototype reactors for power stations operated in an increasingly liberalised and privatised market. Lastly it should be noted that Parliament advocated support for nuclear disarmament by technical contributions in cooperation with the nuclear powers and the IAEA in Vienna, including research into stepping up the pace of nuclear disarmament including in particular techniques for the safe removal of the radioactive components of nuclear weapons.