

EC/Brazil agreement for scientific and technological cooperation

2004/0216(CNS) - 04/10/2004 - Legislative proposal

PURPOSE : to conclude the Agreement on scientific and technical cooperation with Brazil.

PROPOSED ACT : Council Decision.

CONTENT : On 14 February 2000, the Council authorised the Commission to negotiate an Agreement for scientific and technological co-operation between the EC and Brazil. The negotiations resulted in the Agreement, initialled on 3 December 2002, in Brussels.

The Agreement was negotiated against the background of an upgraded and intensifying co-operation between Brazil and the EU, considering the importance of science and technology for economic and social development and the mutual wish to extend and strengthen the conduct of co-operative activities in areas of common interest as diverse as:

- biotechnology,
- information and communication technologies,
- bioinformatics,
- space,
- micro- and nanotechnologies,
- materials research,
- clean technologies,
- management and sustainable use of environmental resources,
- biosafety,
- health and medicine,
- aeronautics,
- metrology, standardisation and conformity assessment, and
- human sciences.

The Agreement is based on the principles of mutual benefit, reciprocal opportunities for access to each other's programmes and activities relevant to the purpose of the Agreement, non-discrimination, the effective protection of intellectual property and equitable sharing of intellectual property rights. It will be concluded for an initial period of five years and will be renewable for additional periods of five years by mutual written agreement of the Parties.

The Agreement provides for :

- participation of Brazilian research and technological development entities in RTD projects of the framework programme and reciprocal participation of research and technological development entities established in the Community in Brazilian projects in similar sectors of RTD. Such a participation is subject to the rules and

procedures applicable in each Party;

- joint RTD projects;

- visits and exchanges of scientists, researchers and technical experts;

- joint organisation of scientific seminars, conferences, symposia and workshops, as well as the participation of experts in those activities;

- concerted actions such as the pooling of RTD projects already implemented in accordance with the procedures applicable to the RTD programmes of each Party and scientific networks;

- exchange and sharing of equipment and materials;

- exchanges of information on practices, laws, regulations and programmes relevant to cooperation under this Agreement, including information on policy in the field of science and technology;

– any other arrangements recommended by the Steering Committee to be established pursuant to Article VI, which are deemed compliant with the policies and procedures applicable in both Parties. In principle, no transfer of funds will take place.

As regards dissemination and utilisation of information and management, allocation and exercise of intellectual property rights, resulting from joint research under the Agreement, they will be subject to the provisions of the annex to this Agreement entitled "Intellectual Property".

Closer collaboration with Brazil on science and technology will also contribute directly to strengthening ties between the two parties and will, in particular, bring substantial benefits for Europeans, by improving the Community's position in Brazil and, consequently, within MERCOSUR, with whom the EC is currently negotiating an Association Agreement.