Research RTD, 7th EC framework programme 2007-2013: participation of undertakings, research centres and universities

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The Council held an exchange of views on five of the seven specific programmes proposed for implementing the 7th research framework programme (FP7). It also took note of a progress report, followed by an exchange of views, on the rules for participation of undertakings, research centres and universities in actions under FP7.

The Council instructed the permanent representatives committee to continue the examination of the Commission proposals bearing in mind the guidance given by the Council and in the light of the opinions that will be delivered by the European Parliament and the outcome of the ongoing discussions on the long-term financial perspective.

The debate took place on the basis of compromise proposals for the following specific programmes: "Cooperation": collaborative research; "Ideas": establishment of a European Research Council (ERC); two programmes for direct actions to be carried out by the Joint Research Centre; "Euratom": for nuclear research and training activities.

The debate focused on the following: the ethical principles that apply in respect of the eligibility of projects to be funded under FP7; the broad principles governing the management and implementation of the specific programmes; questions related to the implementing structure for the ERC.

Following the exchange of views a large degree of consensus was reached on the abovementioned specific programmes.

To recall, the Council, at its meeting on 28 November 2005, reached agreement on a partial general approach on FP7 for research, technological development and demonstration activities for the years 2007 to 2013, including the separate "Euratom" decision (which runs until 2011).

The remaining specific programmes, "People" (human resources) and "Capacities" (potential research capacities of small and medium enterprises), will be examined at a later stage.

As far as the rules for participation are concerned, the exchange of views on the draft regulation laying down rules for the participation of undertakings, research centres and universities in actions under FP7 and for the dissemination of research results (2007-2013), took place on the basis of a report prepared by the presidency reflecting the current state of play.