

Research RTD, 7th Euratom Framework Programme 2007-2011: participation of undertakings, research centres and universities, dissemination of research results

2006/0014(CNS) - 30/11/2006 - Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading

The European Parliament adopted a resolution drafted by Anne **LAPERROUZE** (ADLE, FR) and made certain amendments to the proposal on the rules for the participation of undertakings, research centres and universities in actions under the 7th Framework Programme of the Atomic Energy Community and for the dissemination of research results (2007-2011).

Like the **BUSQUIN** report (please see **COD/2005/0277**) - which concerns the rules for participation in non-nuclear research activities, the amendments in this report essentially involve the following: the establishment of clear evaluation criteria; the establishment of simplified and transparent procedures for participants; the clarification of certain concepts and definitions; the certification on the financial statements; access rights for "European" affiliates; and the coverage and calculation of indirect costs, in particular on the flat rate introduced for non-profit public bodies, universities, research organisations and SMEs. This flat-rate is now fixed at 60% during the first three years (2007-2009) and thereafter the Commission shall establish a new flat-rate reflecting an approximation of the real indirect costs of participants, but not lower than 40%. Parliament also insisted on the Participants' Guarantee Fund, which will be established by the Commission and will serve as a basis for an exoneration of verification of participants (except the project coordinators). No additional guarantee or security may be requested from participants or imposed on them.

A new clause states that a joint undertaking shall be set up for the purpose of managing and administering the European contribution to the ITER international agreement that will ratify the setting up of the ITER organisation, together with additional activities concerning the construction of ITER, which is provided for in the specific programme implementing the Seventh Framework Programme of the European Atomic Energy Community for nuclear research and training activities (2007-2011). All other activities under the thematic area 'fusion energy' provided for under this specific programme will be implemented and managed separately from the joint undertaking, thereby making it possible to maintain the integrated approach and the close involvement of the fusion associations.