Basic information

1994/0086(CNS) CNS - Consultation procedure Decision	Procedure completed
Specific research programme RTD: biotechnology (1994-1998) **Subject** 3.50.08 New technologies; biotechnology	

Key players

Council of the European Union

Council configuration	Meetings	Date
Environment	1817	1994-12-15
Research	1810	1994-12-01

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
30/03/1994	Legislative proposal published	COM(1994)0068	Summary
21/04/1994	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
14/11/1994	Vote in committee		Summary
14/11/1994	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading	A4-0064/1994	
17/11/1994	Debate in Parliament		
15/12/1994	Act adopted by Council after consultation of Parliament		
15/12/1994	End of procedure in Parliament		
31/12/1994	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	1994/0086(CNS)
Procedure type	CNS - Consultation procedure
Procedure subtype	Legislation
Legislative instrument	Decision
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 170 EC Treaty (before Amsterdam) E 130I-p4
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	ENER/3/05536

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading		A4-0064/1994 OJ C 341 05.12.1994, p. 0014	14/11/1994	
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading		T4-0149/1994 OJ C 341 05.12.1994, p. 0201-0217	18/11/1994	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Legislative proposal	COM(1994)0068	30/03/1994	Summary

Other institutions and bodies

Institution/body	Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
EESC	Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report	CES1019/1994 OJ C 393 31.12.1994, p. 0117	14/09/1994	

Additional information

Source	Document	Date
European Commission	EUR-Lex	

Final act

Decision 1994/0912
OJ L 361 31.12.1994, p. 0025 Summary

Specific research programme RTD: biotechnology (1994-1998)

1994/0086(CNS) - 15/12/1994 - Final act

The Council decision adopted a specific programme for RTD, including demonstration, in the field of biotechnology for the period 1994-1998. - Objectives: strong science basis; highly trained workforce; efficient technology transfer from the science base to industry; rapid incorporation of innovative techniques into established practices; multidisciplinary approach to biotechnology-based processes; cross-linking of connected topics and groups of experts on an international scale; validation of scientific principles to underpin a unified market for biotechnology-derived products; harmonious application of bioprocesses as beneficial alternatives to promote the environment, human health and welfare; high degree of social acceptance for the research. - Amount deemed necessary: ECU 552 million. Indicative breakdown by area (in million ecus): - Cell factories: 121.5 - Genome analysis: 88 - Plant and animal biotechnology: 133 - Cell communication in neurosciences: 33 - Immunology and transdisease vaccinology: 39 - Structural biology: 55 - Pre-normative research, biodiversity and social acceptance: 52.5 - Infrastructures: 30 Participation in the programme was open, with financial support from the Community, to all legal entities established in the Community or in an associated country, following the conclusion of an agreement with the third country in question, and to the Joint Research Centre. The programme would be implemented through shared-cost actions, concerted actions, specific measures and accompanying measures relating to international cooperation, to the dissemination of results and to training for researchers and users.

Specific research programme RTD: biotechnology (1994-1998)

1994/0086(CNS) - 18/11/1994 - Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading

"Horizontal" amendments to the specific programmes. As with its consideration of the 12 specific programmes approved by the EP at the end of the previous parliamentary term, the EP adopted horizontal amendments which dealt with the same issues but which were located in different places in the texts of the individual projects. These amendments related to: 1) the EP's prerogatives with regard to the budget: the Committee on Research felt that the final amounts for the programmes should be adopted by the budgetary authority in accordance with the resources available under the financial perspective and the relative priority laid down for the fields covered by the various programmes. 2) the progress made in implementing the programmes: as far as the committee was concerned, any increase in the overall maximum amount of the Fourth Framework Programme for RTD would depend, in particular, on the evaluation of the progress made in implementing the programmes; in this respect, it stressed that for the progress to be deemed satisfactory, it was important for the first commitments of appropriations to be effected within a period of 12 months following the adoption of the programme in question. 3) the need to speed up the selection procedures and make them more transparent: it was important to simplify and speed up the application and selection procedures in order to make it easier for small and medium-sized entreprises, research centres and universities to take part in the specific programmes. 4) information for the EP: the work programme drawn up by the Commission setting out in detail the scientific and technological objectives and specifying the stages in the implementation of the programme as well as the proposed financial arrangements should be forwarded to the EP along with any updated versions. 5) comitology: the EP reiterated its support for consultative committees rather than regulatory committees. It also recommended that any expenses involved in taking part in the committees should be borne by the Member States. 6) international agreements: the EP proposed extending the scope of the negotiations undertaken by the Commission with a view to involving, through international agreements, third countries in Europe in the RTD programmes, so as to also include third countries in the Mediterranean. Biotechnology. The EP stressed the importance of research in this field, particularly in the agricultural sector, in obtaining products with interesting characteristics (e.g. increased resistance to diseases, etc.). These products could help increase the competitiveness of the Community. However, increased competitiveness should go hand in hand with consideration of the environmental and social factors. Therefore, the Community should not decrease its efforts in biotechnological research if it hoped to maintain its agricultural independence. The EP also called for cooperation/coordination between biotechnological research and research on biomedicine/health and agriculture/fisheries. There should also be coordination in optimising and disseminating the results of the research. The committee felt it was necessary to set measurable aims as soon as possible in order to facilitate the evaluation of the progress of the research. Furthermore, given the consequences of the research and its applications, in terms of the environment, socio-economic aspects and health, particularly in developing countries, it stressed that these countries should have access to the results of the research. The EP called for ex-ante and ex-post assessments of the economic, social and ecological impact of the programme as well as the biological risks. In addition, the research should be socially acceptable. The EP stressed the importance of adequate information for the general public on the objectives, content and methods of the research on biotechnology. It felt that the research programme could contribute to the development of ethical guidelines for the promotion of biotechnological research. The EP called for the exclusion from the research financed under the programme of research to modify germ cells or any stage in the development of the human embryo. Research should respect the provisions of Directives 90/219/EEC and 90 /220/EEC (contained use and release of genetically modified micro-organisms). The programme should also give support to the implementation of a Community legislative framework for biotechnology designed to protect human beings and the environment. Parliament proposed extending the scope of the scientific objectives by including work on biomolecules that would strengthen the research on cancer and work on the production of other biomolecules of importance to the pharmaceutical industry (vitamins, enzymes, etc.). The development of transgenic animal models was permitted insofar as it was essential for the understanding of severe human or animal diseases. It wished to be kept informed of the developments within international bodies with regard to a bioethical code. Finally, as regards the breakdown of appropriations and the fields of activity, it proposed the creation of an additional field - "international cooperation" - and recommended a reduction in the percentage of appropriations set aside for plant and animal biotechnological research in order to increase those intended for the field relating to information, social acceptance and ongoing assessment.

Specific research programme RTD: biotechnology (1994-1998)

1994/0086(CNS) - 30/03/1994 - Legislative proposal

The proposal for a decision aimed to establish a specific programme of research and technological development, including demonstration, in the field of biotechnology for the period 1994-1998. - Amount deemed necessary: ECU 552 million. - General objective of the programme: to make use of a wide range of scientific opportunities afforded by accelerated progress in molecular and cellular biology and to concentrate joint efforts on biotechnology where the added value of cooperation translated into industrial and social advantages. The programme covered eight areas of research: cell factories; genome analysis; plant and animal biotechnology; cell communication in neurosciences; immunology and transdisease vaccinology; structural biology; pre-normative research, biodiversity and social acceptance, infrastructures. Participation in the programme was open, with financial support from the Community, to all legal entities established in the Community or in an associated country, following the conclusion of an agreement with that country, as well as to the Joint Research Centre. The programme would be implemented through shared-cost actions, concerted actions, specific measures and accompanying measures relating to international cooperation, the dissemination of results and the training of researchers and users. The Commission was authorised to hold negotiations with a view to concluding international agreements with third countries in Europe in order to involve them in all or some of the programme.