Basic information

1994/2157(COS) COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic)	Procedure completed
Research and technological development RTD: achieving coordination through cooperation **Subject** 3.50.01 European research area and policy	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
ENER Research, Technological Development and Energy	TANNERT Christof (PSE)	30/11/1994

Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
AFET Foreign Affairs, Security and Defense Policy		
AGRI Agriculture and Rural Development	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
BUDG Budgets	MÜLLER Edith (V)	06/12/1994
ECON Economic and Monetary Affairs, Industrial Policy	ARGYROS Stelios (PPE)	06/04/1995
RELA External Economic Relations	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
JURI Legal Affairs, Citizens' Rights	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
REGI Regional Policy	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
TRAN Transport and Tourism		
ENVI Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	

DEVE	Development and Cooperation		
LIBE	Civil Liberties and Internal Affairs		
CONT	Budgetary Control	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
INST	Institutional Affairs		
PECH	Fisheries	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
REGL	Rules of Procedure, Verification of Credentials and Immunities		
FEMM	Women's Rights		
PETI	Petitions		

Council of the European Union

Council configuration	Meetings	Date
Research	1833	1995-03-10

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
19/10/1994	Non-legislative basic document published	COM(1994)0438	Summary
30/11/1994	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
10/03/1995	Debate in Council		Summary
24/05/1995	Vote in committee		Summary
24/05/1995	Committee report tabled for plenary	A4-0121/1995	
14/06/1995	Debate in Parliament		
15/06/1995	End of procedure in Parliament		
03/07/1995	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	1994/2157(COS)

Procedure type	COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic)
Procedure subtype	Commission strategy paper
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 148
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	ENER/4/06106

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A4-0121/1995 OJ C 166 03.07.1995, p. 0003	24/05/1995	

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Non-legislative basic document	COM(1994)0438	19/10/1994	Summary

Research and technological development RTD: achieving coordination through cooperation

1994/2157(COS) - 19/10/1994 - Non-legislative basic document

Faced with international competition, fragmented research policies and the duplication of effort which results, the Commission's strategic document proposes that coordination between national and European research policies should gradually be improved by stepping up European cooperation as and when RDT policy is drawn up and implemented. The Commission stressed the need to coordinate research activities (for which provision is made in Article 130 H of the Treaty) in its White Paper "Growth, Competitiveness and Employment" and the European Council in Corfu listed it as one of the six political priorities. The purpose of the Commission communication is to put this approach into practice and it proposes action at three levels: 1) laying down RDT policy so as to give ministers a forum for discussion, with systematic groundwork in order to provide the common information needed, the aim being to ensure that Member States have relevant and comparable basic information on national RDT policies and common basic references for technological forecasts; 2) carrying out research in order to strengthen the overall coherence of efforts: - programming committees should exchange information more systematically on action taken at national level on the specific programmes in question in order to identify areas where improved cooperation and coordination could prove beneficial; - priority should be given when selecting projects to action which might improve cooperation or coordination between Member States' activities; - the rigid boundaries between programmes should be made more flexible (e.g. aeronautical, automotive, maritime). The programming committees have a decisive role to play here; - the dialogue with industry, including SMEs, should be stepped up by holding thematic meetings; - cooperation should be stepped up with other European RDT organizations or agencies (European Space Agency, Eureka, European Molecular Biology Laboratory, CERN); - the possibility of complementary research programmes (Article 130K of the Treaty) and Community participation involving certain Member States only (Article 130 L) should be explored; - Member States should be encouraged to include research teams from other Member States in their programmes in order to promote the development of RDT partnerships and networks in the EU; 3) international cooperation: the Union should take a consistent stand at international fora and participate in programmes of worldwide scope in a coordinated manner. Systematic Community consultations are therefore needed prior to international meetings.

Research and technological development RTD: achieving coordination through cooperation

1994/2157(COS) - 15/06/1995 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

Adopting the report by Mr Tannert, the European Parliament considered that institutionalized coordination agencies needed to be redefined if national RDT policies were to be efficiently coordinated with each other and with Community RDT policy and therefore called for the Scientific and Technical Research Committee (CREST) to be used henceforth mainly to help the Commission and the Council define the Union's science and technology policy and analyze and compare national and Community RDT policies so that they can be better coordinated, with CREST and the Commission responsible

for ensuring that RDT activities are coordinated with other Union policies (especially environmental and transport). CREST was called upon to submit its reports simultaneously to the Commission, the Council and Parliament. Parliament called for the programme committees responsible for specific programmes to exchange information on action taken at national level on a systematic basis and for the different programmes to be better coordinated, although the programme committees should have a purely consultative function with no decision-making powers. Parliament also called for: - more frequent personal contacts between scientists in order to create a European area of scientific exchange (mobility, training, cooperation between research centres, conferences, seminars, database compiled from the results of education and training programmes); - priority to be given to the third and fourth fields of action when redistributing appropriations for the fourth framework programme; - the unanimity rule governing the adoption of the RDT framework programme to be reviewed; - Parliament to have a right of initiative with respect to framework programmes; - the Commission to propose a new approach to programme funding, making use of tax incentives; - the Commission to do more to coordinate research in the transport sector; - supplementary programmes to be implemented and for the Community to be involved in programmes undertaken by several Member States (Articles 130 K and 130 L). The Commission was therefore advised to set up pilot actions on subjects which go beyond the fourth framework programme; - the Commission to propose key sectors in the field of competitive research which could be coordinated through supplementary programmes; - the Commission to submit proposals for an independent European Research Foundation to finance basic and applied research; - the Member States to adopt measures to strengthen technological innovation infrastructures (funding venture capital, training employees and enterprises) and for energy, the environment, biotechnology and information technologies to be included in the fields to be coordinated.

Research and technological development RTD: achieving coordination through cooperation

1994/2157(COS) - 10/03/1995

The Commission communication deals with the practical implementation of Article 130h of the Treaty on European Union, which provides that the Community and the Member States shall coordinate their research and technological development (RTD) activities so as to ensure that national policies and Community policy are mutually consistent. The discussion focused on the following issues: - the priority objectives of coordination, - how to implement it when determining RTD policies and carrying out research activities. There was also discussion of the desirability of opening up national RTD programmes to research bodies in other Member States, and of the possibilities afforded by the instruments provided for in Articles 130k and 130l of the Treaty (supplementary programmes and Community participation in programmes undertaken by several Member States). In the light of the discussions, the President summarised the conclusions as follows: ‘The Council recognised that greater coordination between national and Community RTD policies could be achieved in pursuit of the objectives laid down by the Treaty, in particular the desirability of Community added value, taking account of the desirability of promoting stimulating competition between the Member States: - with regard to determining RTD policies, such coordination could be based on better use of the existing structures, namely the specific programme committees (whose duties could be extended to include exchanging information on national RTD policies) and the reformed CREST, one of whose main tasks would be to contribute to the coordination of the RTD activities of the Community and the Member States; - with regard to the carrying out of research activities, the role of the programme committees continued to be important in improving cross--programme coordination. As far as the possibilities afforded by the instruments provided for in Articles 130k and 130l of the Treaty and by opening up national research programmes to research bodies in other Member States were concerned, these were complex issues that required more detailed examination; - with regard to international cooperation, more systematic alignment of Member States’ positions concerning RTD in international organisations should be sought. The Council asked the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue examining all aspects of the Commission communication in the light of the discussion by the Council in order to enable it to reach more specific conclusions on the subject at its next meeting’.