Basic information

1996/2136(INI) INI - Own-initiative procedure	Procedure completed
Prospects for European research and technology in the 21st century **Subject** 3.50.01 European research area and policy	

Key players

European Parliament	**Committee responsible**	**Rapporteur**	**Appointed**
	ENER Research, Technological Development and Energy	DESAMA Claude J.-M.J. (PSE)	21/03/1996
Council of the European Union	**Council configuration**	**Meetings**	**Date**
	Research	1952	1996-10-07

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
05/09/1996	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
07/10/1996	Debate in Council		
18/11/1996	Vote in committee		Summary
18/11/1996	Committee report tabled for plenary	A4-0376/1996	
27/11/1996	Debate in Parliament		
28/11/1996	End of procedure in Parliament		
16/12/1996	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	1996/2136(INI)
Procedure type	INI - Own-initiative procedure
Procedure subtype	Initiative
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 55
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	ENER/4/08110

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A4-0376/1996 OJ C 380 16.12.1996, p. 0004	18/11/1996	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T4-0652/1996 OJ C 380 16.12.1996, p. 0015-0072	28/11/1996	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Document attached to the procedure	COM(1996)0332	10/07/1996	Summary

Other institutions and bodies

Institution/body	Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
EESC	Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report	CES0229/1997 OJ C 133 28.04.1997, p. 0012	26/02/1997	Summary

Prospects for European research and technology in the 21st century

1996/2136(INI) - 26/02/1997 - Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report

The Committee welcomes the Commission Communication, and the accompanying working document containing various remarks on the forthcoming 5th RTD framework programme. It regards this draft opinion as paving the way for the forthcoming opinion on the 5th framework programme, and accordingly, it attempts to do more than just respond to the contents of the above documents. The Committee therefore recommends: - a major search for innovative proposals capable of mustering the support and political will of all those involved in research around medium- long-term strategic objectives; - a new philosophy rooted in an integrated system which prevents scattering of limited resources by creating synergies between European research, Community research and major RTD projects where Member States consider joint action important; - going beyond cosmetic changes in the Community framework programme, which leaves its basic shape, management procedures, decision-making procedures and arrangements unchanged; - full implementation of Title XV of the Treaty on European Union, with particular regard to Articles 130k, 130l and 130n as an integral part of the framework programme; - a thorough overhaul of European research as regards framing strategic scenarios, identifying priorities, new structures, greater flexibility, improved access, clearer assignment of responsibilities and assessment of results, with improved management, simplified procedures and more efficient back- up arrangements; - the development of a financial/tax environment conducive to intangible investment in research and training; and calls for, inter alia: - the immediate implementation of a European technology and industrial assessment mechanism, and basic figures (Tableau de Bord);

Prospects for European research and technology in the 21st century

1996/2136(INI) - 10/07/1996 - Document attached to the procedure

OBJECTIVE: the Commission's communication is designed to launch a debate to identify the guidelines that will underpin the Fifth Framework Programme for research, technological development and demonstration activities. CONTENTS: preparation of the Fifth Framework Programme is taking place at a time of rapid and intense change. In the Commission's view, the problem of unemployment, increased globalisation and developments in the construction of Europe (IGC, EMU and enlargement) are all challenges that have to be met. That involves looking afresh at the rationale behind and process of European research. If European research is to survive, it must be more visible it terms of its tasks, simpler to use and generate more effective results. A first set of guidelines is emerging. Without affecting the continuity of recognised achievements, the substance of research topics must be revisited in the light of the challenges and opportunities of the 21st century. Basically, this means moving from research devoted to technological performance only to the kind of research that focuses on the citizen, as well as responding to economic and social needs. On the basis of those guidelines, the Commission is sketching out an initial vision of what the future framework programme will contain and has identified three priority themes and three horizontal programmes. 1) The thematic programmes place the emphasis both on targeting and the impact of research on the life of citizens: a) exploring the resources of the living world and the ecosystem: from the human perspective, the object will be, in particular, to acquire a

better understanding of the mechanisms that support the living world and their applications, specifically in relation to health and food; from an environmental perspective, the object will be to improve our understanding of environmental mechanisms and acquire advanced technologies to protect natural resources and successfully manage pollution and waste; b) developing a user-friendly information society: this means developing internationally interoperable technologies, infrastructures, services and applications and identifying new tools to facilitate people's access to education and training; c) encouraging competitive and sustainable growth: bunched around this issue are priorities deriving from Community policies with a major impact on the competitiveness of the Union and bringing many jobs into play (agricultural policy, fisheries, transport, energy and heath). 2) The horizontal programmes contain two elements: a generic element designed to respond to common needs and secure overall coordination; and a second element integrated into the thematic programmes: a) improving human research potential: improving the training and mobility of researchers and promoting the European identity; identifying society's needs and better understanding the social consequences of research work (organisation of work, job creation, economy, education and culture); b) innovating and involving SMEs: SMEs will gain easier access to research and research outcomes if a single simplified framework is established and technology transfer mechanisms developed; c) affirming the international role of European research: direct involvement of third parties in research programmes; establishment of arrangements for cooperation at European level; definition of specific international scientific cooperation activities. 3) As far as implementation is concerned, the Commission is advocating greater selectivity of issues and a greater concentration of resources. It is arguing for a simplified decision-taking procedure, a substantial reduction in the number of programmes and the number of committees. Three main methods of intervention are envisaged: horizontal programmes, task forces open to everyone around unifying themes and mechanisms to encourage cooperation between Member States.

Prospects for European research and technology in the 21st century

1996/2136(INI) - 28/11/1996 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

In adopting the report by Mr Claude DESAMA (PSE, B), the European Parliament took the view that European financing of research was necessary both for the competitiveness and economic security of the EU as well as for the development of social and ecological well-being. With this in mind Parliament called for a better dissemination of results and innovations at local level and urged the Commission to include, in its actions, efforts to promote a positive culture and attitude to research among the population. In outlining what it expected from the Fifth Framework Programme for Research and Development, which was to be proposed in March 1997, Parliament drew up the following recommendations: - the first activity (specific research programmes) should be based more on the enabling technologies, with programmes being centred on objectives which reflect social needs. Indicators relative to job creation should therefore be incorporated in all applied research. Financial resources should be mobilised so as to ensure a wide spread of projects ranging from basic long-term research to short-term applied research, in keeping with the framework of EU policies. A fund for technological development should be set up whose function would be to support actions at local level, thereby allowing a greater dissemination of innovative technologies. It should be noted that Parliament was opposed to any EU research funds being used for the development and production of arms and took the view that European aid which might possibly be used for such purposes should be handed back to the EU; - on the second activity (international cooperation), Parliament called on the Commission to evaluate mechanisms which would allow non-member states to join in an experimental series of cooperative programmes and advocated that the Fifth Framework Programme specifically take account of the participation of the CEECs; - with regard to the third activity (dissemination and optimisation of results), Parliament called for a regulation on intellectual property rights which would encourage technology transfer. It also advocated a greater integration of the activities of the Structural Funds and R&D programmes. Finally, it repeated that special attention should be given to SMEs so as to create a more favourable fiscal, economic and financial environment for this group (granting of loans and loan guarantees, high-risk capital in the event of synergy between SMEs, etc.), and underlined the need for cooperation between SMEs, universities and major businesses; - as for the fourth activity (training and mobility of researchers), the report called for: the development of a system of targeted grants in universities and in industry, 'return grants' to encourage researchers to re-establish themselves in their country of origin, and grants to enable confirmed researchers to work temporarily in underprivileged regions; the establishment of 'circles of expertise' whose purpose would be to comment, independently of the management committees, on the implementation of the programmes; the setting up of a European institute to finance advanced technologies (risk capital) and the development of mechanisms to support the commercial exploitation of university research. Lastly, Parliament called for the role of the Joint Research Centre to be redefined, recommending that it should become an essential instrument of scientific support for all the institutions of the European Union (including the European Parliament).