Basic information

1997/2073(COS) COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic)	Procedure completed
Research and technological development (RTD): cooperation with developing countries **Subject** 3.50.20 Scientific and technological cooperation and agreements	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
ENER Research, Technological Development and Energy	WEBER Jup (ARE)	27/05/1997

Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
RELA External Economic Relations	MALERBA Franco E. (UPE)	17/06/1997
DEVE Development and Cooperation	MACARTNEY Allan (ARE)	19/06/1997

Council of the European Union

Council configuration	Meetings	Date
Development	2012	1997-06-05

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
25/04/1997	Non-legislative basic document published	COM(1997)0174	Summary
16/05/1997	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
05/06/1997	Resolution/conclusions adopted by Council		
23/02/1999	Vote in committee		Summary
23/02/1999	Committee report tabled for plenary	A4-0089/1999	
09/03/1999	End of procedure in Parliament		
21/06/1999	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	1997/2073(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/4/08838

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A4-0089/1999 OJ C 175 21.06.1999, p. 0005	23/02/1999	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T4-0146/1999 OJ C 175 21.06.1999, p. 0016-0035	09/03/1999	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Non-legislative basic document	COM(1997)0174	25/04/1997	Summary

Research and technological development (RTD): cooperation with developing countries

1997/2073(COS) - 09/03/1999 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The Parliament adopted its opinion on RTD in development policy, drafted by Jup Weber (ERA, Luxembourg) without debate. The EP welcomed the initial outline of the Community strategy for supporting research in developing countries and agrees with the Commission's analysis of the importance for development of the establishment of research capacities which address, locally and in a highly concrete way, the challenges which these countries face. It considers that the priorities set and the areas of work outlined must clearly form part of an approach based on sustainable development, and that the emphasis should be placed on 'front-line technologies', that is those which enable people to escape from poverty and begin a cumulative process of sustainable wealth creation and which cover, among other things, the areas of hygiene, water and the treatment and recycling of waste. The Parliament calls on the Commission to: - guarantee maximum flexibility in the financial instruments of RTD co-operation with developing countries. - strengthen and guarantee coherence and co-ordination between the EU's foreign policy and RTD co-operation programmes with third countries, particularly developing countries, on the basis of solidarity with the poor countries but also the advantageousness of new potential markets. The EP also considers it desirable to improve the mobilisation of resources and, in particular, to consider how the Union can make full use of financial instruments, such as the EDF and the ALA and MEDA Regulations, which should devote additional funds to actions aimed at establishing structures for RTD in developing countries.

Research and technological development (RTD): cooperation with developing countries

1997/2073(COS) - 25/04/1997 - Non-legislative basic document

OBJECTIVE: The subject of this communication is the objectives of scientific cooperation with developing countries. In particular, it sets out the criteria and factors which should guide the scientific cooperation strategy to be adopted with the countries concerned and the general framework to be created

to this end at Community level. SUBSTANCE: The Commission notes the insufficiency of research potential in developing countries taken as a whole (there are 0.5 researchers/R & D personnel per 10 000 of the active population in non-Asian developing countries, whereas the equivalent figure is 69 for the US and 40 for the EU). It considers means of improving the situation with the resources currently at the Community's disposal. The weakness of technological culture and, above all, the paucity of resources (based mostly on very low levels of public support) further accentuate the technological gap characterizing the developing countries. In this overall context, what can the Union do under its development aid strategy, and what means of action are open to it? Past experience shows that only a global approach based on an 'aid for science' (not a 'science transfer') model can ensure the coherence and effectiveness of development and research policies. In future, scientific research must be employed as a strategic means of aiding developing countries to bridge their technological and economic gap. A support strategy must be defined, based on the following principles and elements: 1) strategic principles: - the principle of partnership, which requires definition of the roles of those involved: . the public authorities in the developing countries should define and implement national policies tending to favour technological development, reforming the existing rules and readjusting financial planning. They should also act as RTD operators, concentrating on strategic research, the training of researchers and the encouragement of private/public interaction; . the EU donors should establish new priorities, on the basis of support for institutional reform, strengthening of scientific cooperation at regional, national and international level, and more systematic coordination of the EU's positions in the international forums concerned (the WHO, UNCTAD, the World Bank, etc); . civil society and the private sector (producers, knowledge users, etc) should take part in the establishment of priorities and the implementation of research actions (including financing); - the principle of differentiation: account must be taken of the diversity of the specific needs of the countries concerned; - the principle of an integrated approach for the resolution of specific problems: interdisciplinarity and association with civil society are becoming indispensable for the development of a genuinely effective strategy; 2) strategic elements: priority should be given to three areas: - the institutional aspect, via the definition of new legislative and regulatory policies; - research capacity (infrastructure and human resources); - orientation of scientific and technological cooperation towards the market (especially industry) in the interests of its profitability; 3) strategic instruments: two complementary instruments should be synchronized at Community level: - economic and technical cooperation actions, under the Lomé Convention, the MEDA programme and the regulations on relations with Asian and Latin American countries; - international scientific cooperation actions, under the fifth Community R & D framework programme. The Commission's objective is to bring about systematic reinforcement of the role of RTD in economic and social cooperation with developing countries via: . substantial financial aid for actions for institutional support for and development of universities; . application of RTD mainstreaming to all sectoral approaches to cooperation (this could result in 3 to 5% of appropriations being targeted on scientific and technological support actions). Scientific cooperation with developing countries should also be consolidated and diversified. The fifth framework programme should play a major role through the definition of thematic approaches in relation to the specific problems of the developing countries and in cooperation with the public authorities and civil society in the regions concerned; 4) areas of action: the main fields concerned by scientific research in the developing countries are the following: - public health; - demography and population, in relation to land use and urbanization; - energy; - information and communication (especially in relation to the development of the information society). In transverse terms, the Community intends to support the development of research institutes and to encourage areas of technology with high industrial development potential. The Commission stresses the desirability of improving access to the fifth framework programme for the emerging economies, and of developing scientific cooperation to facilitate the access of EU undertakings to these high-growth markets. The Commission also insists that the Member States should coordinate more closely among themselves in this field, and stresses the need for genuine political dialogue in the sector with the countries and regions concerned.