Basic information

2001/0122(CNS) CNS - Consultation procedure Decision	Procedure completed
Research RTD, 6th EC Framework-programme 2002-2006: strengthening the European Research Area **Subject** 3.50.02.01 EC, EU framework programme	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
ITRE Industry, External Trade, Research, Energy	VAN VELZEN W.G. (PPE-DE)	19/02/2002

Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
BUDG Budgets	HUDGHTON Ian (V/ALE)	11/07/2001
CONT Budgetary Control	LANGENHAGEN Brigitte (PPE-DE)	11/09/2001
LIBE Citizens' Freedoms and Rights, Justice and Home Affairs		
AGRI Agriculture and Rural Development	GRAEFE ZU BARINGDORF Friedrich-Wilhelm (V/ALE)	20/03/2002
PECH Fisheries	POIGNANT Bernard (PSE)	24/01/2002
FEMM Women's Rights and Equal Opportunities	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	

Council of the European Union

Council configuration	Meetings	Date
Competitiveness (Internal Market, Industry, Research and Space)	2451	2002-09-30
Research	2417	2002-03-11

European Commission

Commission DG	Commissioner

	Research and Innovation

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
30/05/2001	Legislative proposal published	COM(2001)0279	Summary
03/09/2001	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
17/10/2001	Modified legislative proposal published	COM(2001)0594	Summary
30/01/2002	Modified legislative proposal published	COM(2002)0043	Summary
11/03/2002	Debate in Council		
28/05/2002	Vote in committee		Summary
28/05/2002	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading	A5-0211/2002	
11/06/2002	Debate in Parliament		
12/06/2002	Decision by Parliament	T5-0302/2002	Summary
30/09/2002	Act adopted by Council after consultation of Parliament		
30/09/2002	End of procedure in Parliament		
29/10/2002	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2001/0122(CNS)
Procedure type	CNS - Consultation procedure
Procedure subtype	Legislation
Legislative instrument	Decision
Legal basis	EC Treaty (after Amsterdam) EC 166
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	ITRE/5/14869

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading		A5-0211/2002	28/05/2002	
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading		T5-0302/2002 OJ C 261 30.10.2003, p. 0150-0308 E	12/06/2002	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Legislative proposal	COM(2001)0279	30/05/2001	Summary
Modified legislative proposal	COM(2001)0594 OJ C 051 26.02.2002, p. 0308 E	17/10/2001	Summary
Modified legislative proposal	COM(2002)0043	30/01/2002	Summary
Follow-up document	COM(2008)0533	04/09/2008	Summary
Follow-up document	COM(2009)0210	29/04/2009	Summary

Other institutions and bodies

Institution/body	Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
EESC	Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report	CES0693/2002 OJ C 221 17.09.2002, p. 0097	29/05/2002	

Additional information

Source	Document	Date
European Commission	EUR-Lex	

Final act

Decision 2002/0834
OJ L 294 29.10.2002, p. 0001-0043 Summary

Research RTD, 6th EC Framework-programme 2002-2006: strengthening the European Research Area

2001/0122(CNS) - 30/09/2002 - Final act

PURPOSE : to adopt a specific programme for research, technological development and demonstration: "Integrating and strengthening the European Research Area" (2002-2006). COMMUNITY MEASURE : Council Decision 2002/834/EC. CONTENT : the Council adopted the decisions establishing the five specific Programmes for Research under the 6th Research Framework 2002-2006 (EC and Euratom). This particular programme ("Integrating and strengthening the European Research Area (EC)") was adopted by qualified majority with the Italian delegation voting against. Adoption of the Specific Programmes will contribute to the timely implementation of the new Framework Programme, as requested by the European Council, so as to promote the creation of a European Research Area and to strengthen innovation in the European Union. The five Specific Programmes cover the following themes: - Integrating and strengthening the European Research Area (EC): EUR 12905 million; - Structuring the European Research Area (EC): EUR 2605 million; - Joint Research Centre activities (EC): EUR 760 million; - Nuclear energy (Euratom): EUR 940 million; - Joint Research Centre activities (Euratom): EUR 290 million. The Specific Programmes establish programme management provisions, scientific and technological objectives and budgetary allocations for the different research activities to be financed under the Framework Programme. It is stipulated that no funding

will go to research aimed at human reproductive cloning, modification of the genetic heritage of human beings or the creation of human embryos solely for the purpose of research or stem cell procurement. In addition, further elaboration on ethical issues is provided for in a statement for the Council minutes, namely that: - further provisions on the funding of research activities which involve the use of human embryos and human embryonic stem cells will be established before the end of 2003, on the basis of a new proposal from the Commission and in consultation with the European Parliament; - until then, the Commission will not propose to finance such research projects, unless they involve banked or isolated human embryonic stem cells in culture; - proposals for research projects in these areas will be submitted to a regulatory committee.

Research RTD, 6th EC Framework-programme 2002-2006: strengthening the European Research Area

2001/0122(CNS) - 29/04/2009 - Follow-up document

This paper concerns the response to the reports of the Expert Groups on the ex-post evaluation of the Sixth Framework Programmes.

To recall, the major objectives of the Sixth Research Framework Programmes (20022006) and their Specific Programmes were to integrate strengthen and structure the European Research Area, with a budget of EUR 19.235 billion.

The Commission recently received the report of the Expert Group on the ex-post evaluation of the Sixth Framework Programmes. The aim of this Communication is to respond to the issues raised in the report in an open and transparent manner, outlining which actions the Commission intends to take or has already taken to alleviate the problem, but also discussing issues where no obvious or immediate solution exists. A number of the issues raised in the evaluation report cannot be addressed by the Commission alone but will need the engagement of a wider group of actors, including the Member States, the Council and the European Parliament working together.

Commission's response to recommendations: the Commission:

- notes that the preparation and design of the FP8 proposal will be preceded by extensive, open and transparent consultation with stakeholders. A detailed analysis of its rationale will be set out in the Impact Assessment accompanying the FP8 proposal;
- is in broad agreement with the need to better align and coordinate Community and national research efforts in order to strengthen and structure the ERA;
- acknowledges that, even though the term “third country” might have some disadvantages, it has not been an obstacle to more targeted and nuanced thinking on strategic research partnerships. To replace the term using further classification would not necessarily be in the interests of clarity or simplification;
- agrees with the need to provide a clearer focus to research collaboration with “third countries”;
- is very supportive of the need to see an increase in the level of funding going to research partnerships with developed countries;
- accepts that more attention may be necessary to ensure that the combination of instruments to promote frontier research, both by individual teams and cross-European partnerships, works effectively across the range of FP research;
- feels that the participation of SMEs in the Framework Programmes, including within the thematic priorities should be encouraged. The 15 % target is a reflection of the importance the co-legislators attached to the issue and was never intended to be an end in itself;
- will continue to support the activities in the European Strategy Forum on Research Infrastructures (ESFRI). This should be complemented by development of national roadmaps by Member States, and by increased coordination of research infrastructures at the global level;
- supports the need for a better gender balance amongst European researchers. However, it is cautious with the direction proposed by the Expert Group ((re)introducing specific gender equality actions after quality criteria as a condition of funding in large instruments);
- agrees with the need to attract young people to make a career in science and technology. Solutions will need to be found at Member States and Community level, involving actions from different policy fields and including a wide range of stakeholders;
- is aware of the importance of administration and simplification. A Commission Communication on simplification is planned for 2010, which would be the occasion for reflecting on these issues;
- recognises the need to undertake more research on the longer-term and structural impacts of the FP (on institutions, industry, Member States etc.) and has already taken steps to ensure such work is carried out.

This response to the FP6 evaluation is part of a renewed and strengthened commitment made by the Commission to report on the implementation, progress and achievements of the Framework Programmes. The FP6 ex post evaluation report and the Commission response will be key elements feeding into the FP7 interim evaluation. This will help to ensure not only better continuity and a deeper understanding of the issues being examined but also a stronger engagement between evaluation and processes for policy and decision making.

Research RTD, 6th EC Framework-programme 2002-2006: strengthening the European Research Area

2001/0122(CNS) - 12/06/2002 - Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading

By adopting the report by Mr W.G.VAN VELZEN (EPP-ED, NL) by 521 votes for, 3 against and 0 abstentions, the European Parliament adjusted in detail the first specific programmes of integration and strengthening of the European Research Area under the Sixth Framework Programme. The aim of the non-binding amendments is to clarify the thematic priorities, that is: - Life sciences, genomics and biotechnology for health: Parliament stresses that the priority should be preventing and curing diseases. Diagnostic tools should be supported primarily if they are linked to therapeutic efforts. Parliament calls for priority lines of research in diabetes, cardio-vascular diseases and it stresses the objective of the fight against cancer. The House also adopted an amendment saying that control on disease-related conditions, for example the advancement of knowledge in the field of palliative

medicine and care should be supported; - Information Society technologies: the amendments request that research be centred on interactive and intelligent systems for health, which allow medical doctors and health professionals who have completed their studies to continue to keep their knowledge up to date, as well as being used for pharmacovigilance. It is also stated that research shall focus on new technologies for valorisation of artistic, archaeological and cultural heritage. Other amendments adopted stress the need to develop mobile, wireless, optical and broadband communication infrastructures and computing technologies that are reliable, pervasive and can be adapted to accommodate new applications and services. The importance of including the further rapid development of the next-generation pan-European gigabit research network - GEANT - into a network with a capacity of 100 Gb/s was also stressed by the Parliament; - Nanotechnologies and nanosciences: according to Parliament the main objective should be to support research into the integration of biological and non-biological entities, opening new horizons in many applications, such as for processing and for medical, environmental and food analysis systems; - Aeronautics and space: in addition to the basic objective of enabling the aeronautics industry to increase its competitiveness, the competitiveness of European commercial aircraft should also be improved. Furthermore, emphasis should be placed on space science and study of the solar system, including research on the sun and the climate and geology of the earth; - Food quality and safety: Parliament thinks that the priority should be to protect human health and to ensure food safety by control and prevention of food-related risks, by developing food technologies more in keeping with the fundamental role that nutrition plays as regards health and disease prevention, and by control of health risks associated with environmental changes. In addition, research shall focus on the role of trace chemical substances, health risks linked to food contamination, novel food profiling techniques, development, improvement and establishment of methods to control chemical, biological conditions and allergenic risk throughout the food chain from animal feed to consumers throughout the food chain. - Sustainable development, global change and ecosystems: in addition to a greater understanding of marine and terrestrialecosystems, this sector should also include research into the impact of climate change on fish stocks and into the effects of fishing activities; - Citizens and governance in a knowledge-based society: MEPs believe that priority should be given to understanding Europe's history, its peoples and its cultural heritage, the evolution of European social and political thought and institutions, the unity and diversity of European culture and the European contributions to world civilisation.

Research RTD, 6th EC Framework-programme 2002-2006: strengthening the European Research Area

2001/0122(CNS) - 30/05/2001 - Legislative proposal

PURPOSE: to adopt a specific programme 2002-2006 for research, technological development and demonstration aimed at integrating and strengthening the European Research Area. CONTENT: the present proposal for a decision is one in a series of five new proposals (CNS/2001/0123, CNS/2001/0124, CNS/2001/0125, CNS/2001/0126) concerning specific programmes which should be implemented under this framework programme. The programme is complementary to the programme "structuring the European Research Area" and the specific programme for the JRC, and its implementation will be co-ordinated with them. The priority thematic areas represent the bulk of expenditure under the framework programme 2002-2006. Through a highly focused Community research effort, the intention is to generate a substantial leveraging effect which, together with actions in other parts of the framework programme 2002-2006 and through open co-ordination with other - regional, national, European and international - frameworks, will result in a coherent and highly effective common endeavour towards their overall objectives. The priority thematic areas (total EUR 12 505) of research are (in million euros): - Integrating research (12 055) - Genomics and biotechnology for health (2 000) - Information society technologies (3000) - Nanotechnologies, intelligent materials, new production processes (1 300) - Aeronautics and space (1 000) - Food safety and health risks (600) - Sustainable development and global change (1 700) - Citizens and governance in the European knowledge society (225) - Anticipating the EU's scientific and technological needs (1 630) - Policy oriented research and leading edge topics (880) - Specific research activities for SMEs (450) - Specific international co-operation activities (300) - Strengthening the foundations of the European Research Area (450) - Support for the coordination of activities (400) and support for the coherent development of policies (50). The contribution of the new Framework Programme to bringing about the European Research Area is based mainly on the means of intervention envisaged for implementing it, in particular the three new instruments, namely the networks of excellence, integrated projects and participation by the Community in jointly implemented national programmes.

Research RTD, 6th EC Framework-programme 2002-2006: strengthening the European Research Area

2001/0122(CNS) - 30/01/2002 - Modified legislative proposal

The positions expressed by Parliament and Council on the new framework programme demonstrate a high degree of convergence, with broadly similar positions expressed on the overall budget and its breakdown, programme structure, scientific and technological priorities, and means of implementation. For its part, the Commission has worked to encourage the process of convergence, in particular by modifying its framework programme proposals to take up a significant proportion of Parliament's amendments. It notes with satisfaction the substantial consensus on the underlying principles of the new framework programme that has been achieved through the efforts of Council and Parliament, in particular with respect to the priority to be given to the use of powerful new instruments, the strong focus of the thematic priorities, and the introduction of greater flexibility in the implementation of the programme. A sufficiently stable basis now exists for the Commission to come forward with amended proposals for the specific programmes. These take up the changes in the framework programme resulting from the first reading, and set out their detailed implications as regards the research to be conducted and its means of implementation. The objective is to assist the other institutions in their examination of the specific programmes, and their further negotiations, with the aim of reaching early agreement on the framework programme, rules of participation and specific programmes. The most extensive adjustments to the Commission's earlier proposals are to be found in the programme "Integrating and strengthening the European Research Area", including the following: - adaptations to the structure and detailed research content of thematic priority 1 (to reflect its organisation in two sections, respectively on advanced genomics and its applications to health, and on combating major diseases) and thematic priority 6 (to reflect its organisation in three parts, respectively on sustainable energy systems, sustainable surface transport, and global change and ecosystems). More limited, but in some cases nevertheless substantial, amendments have been introduced in to the research content of other priority thematic areas. - adjustments to the initial policy-orientated research priorities under the heading "supporting policies and anticipating

scientific and technological needs", along with some re-attribution of research activities in relation to the thematic priorities (notably as regards agriculture and marine ecosystem research). These take account of the modifications to content and the significant reduction in budget introduced following the first reading. - the description of the instruments (Annex III) has been refined and clarified, in the light of the debate leading up to the first reading. This reflects the principle of a smooth transition from "traditional" to "new" instruments in the implementation of the thematic priority areas, and the idea of a fourth instrument, in the spirit of the "escalier d'excellence". In implementing this specific programme, the Commission proposes to be assisted by a committee of Member States' representatives. The committee shall meet in different configurations, as appropriate, corresponding to the thematic priority areas of research. The modifications introduced in the programme"Structuring the European research area" relate mainly to the mobility and infrastructure actions, where additional detail and clarity has been introduced in the mechanisms and instruments to be adopted, while also taking account of the more limited budget attributed to these actions. As regards the Euratom programme on "Nuclear energy", the main changes relate to the fission part, with the introduction of a new thematic priority on radiation protection and activities on the safety of nuclear installations. In both these programmes, the descriptions of the instruments (Annex III) have been substantially updated, in line with the programme "Integrating and strengthening the European Research Area". In all cases, the budgetary allocations have been revised in conformity with the common position of the Council.

Research RTD, 6th EC Framework-programme 2002-2006: strengthening the European Research Area

2001/0122(CNS) - 17/10/2001 - Modified legislative proposal

The Commission submitted its proposals for Decisions concerning the Framework Programme 2002-2006 on 21 February 2001 and its proposals for the associated Specific Programmes on 30 May 2001. During the course of the debate on the Framework Programme, and to ensure that this is conducted under the best conditions, the Commission has subsequently indicated its intention to provide further information to the Council and European Parliament, in respect of the activities to be carried out under the heading "Anticipating the EU's scientific and technological needs", in the form of a modified proposal for the specific programme "Integrating and strengthening the European Research Area". The present proposal fulfils this commitment, and provides the further information needed by the Council and European Parliament to understand the full implications of this part of the Commission's proposals, which equip the Framework Programme with a means to anticipate, and respond quickly to, emerging needs and new scientific and technological developments. In particular, the proposal: - Provides a sharper image of the types of activities to be carried out within this part of the specific programme under the headings "policy-orientated research" and "research to explore new and emerging scientific problems and opportunities". In both cases the activities envisaged complement those in other parts of the framework programme, notably research activities within the thematic priorities. · As regards policy-orientated research, the activities to be pursued derive from the research needs of Community policies that cannot be satisfied from within the thematic priorities. They will be implemented by means of specific targeted projects and though specific co-ordination actions. - As regards research to explore new and emerging scientific Problems and opportunities, the activities are designed to respond to new and unforeseen developments or unexpected issues, and to pursue exploratory research in new and emerging areas at the frontier of knowledge outside the thematic priority areas, in particular on transdisciplinary or multidisciplinary topics. - Gives a more extensive presentation of the programming method to be used to identify the research activities to be carried out under this heading, and identifies the features of the programming method which are specific to policy-orientated research, on one hand, and research to explore new and emerging problems and opportunities, on the other. - Presents a demonstration of the first application of the programming method, which has been used to identify the policy-orientated research needs, other than those included in the priority thematic areas, which can already be identified prior to the beginning of the programme. Further research needs will be identified in subsequent applications of the programming method, during the implementation of theprogramme. This approach, with the experience in its application gained over time, will allow the development of a much more direct and transparent link between Community research and the needs of policy, as well as a better-informed articulation of policy research needs through the involvement of the key stakeholders. - Sets out the research activities which will be carried out to respond to needs which have been identified in this way, · Specifies a budget of 50% of the amount attributed to the activities under the heading of "policy orientated research and leading edge topics" (now re-titled "anticipating the EU's scientific and technological needs") in their entirety, ie a budget of Euro 440 million as the amount which will apply to the specified research activities, with the remaining 50% to be allocated to research activities that are identified during the course of implementation of the specific programme.

Research RTD, 6th EC Framework-programme 2002-2006: strengthening the European Research Area

2001/0122(CNS) - 04/09/2008 - Follow-up document

This paper concerns the ex-post evaluation of the ‘Information Society Technologies (IST)’ Thematic Priority in the Sixth Framework Programme for Research, Technological Development and Demonstration (RTD).

It highlights the findings and recommendations of an evaluation of the ‘Information Society Technologies (IST)’ Thematic Priority in the Sixth Framework Programme for Research, Technological Development and Demonstration (RTD), in the context of the i2010 Strategy. It sets out the Commission’s initial reactions and the measures already taken or planned. The evaluation, carried out from May 2007 to May 2008, responds to the requirements of the Financial Regulation, its Implementing Rules, and the provisions for evaluation for the Seventh Framework Programme.

The objectives of the Sixth Framework Programme (FP6) were to strengthen the European Research Area and the scientific and technological bases of European industry and encourage its international competitiveness, and to promote research activities in support of other EU policies.

In FP6, implemented from 2003 until 2006, the major investment was in a number of thematic priorities intended to focus and integrate Community research: EUR 3 984 million was invested in the ‘IST Thematic Priority’ and an additional EUR 216 million was invested in high-speed networks to connect research institutions in Europe with others in the world. The budget for the ‘Information and Communications Technologies (ICT) Theme under the Seventh Framework Programme (FP7) is EUR 9 050 million for the period 20072013.

The key findings and recommendations from the evaluation report are as follows, inter alia:

- efforts should be made to continue to consolidate public-private partnerships of a more permanent nature, such as JTIs, from the 7th Framework Programme;
- the effort to ensure that support for SMEs and for large firms is not “compartmentalised” into different measures or tools must continue;
- a platform should be created within the scope of the 7th Framework Programme for new and high-growth companies to meet venture capital investors;
- participation from both developing and industrialised non-European countries in projects should be encouraged;
- the e-infrastructures approach should be expanded to more application-oriented and user-oriented platforms in other sectors;
- accounting control in JTIs should be carried out by Member States and participating companies, with a minimum of intervention at the Community level;
- a more trustbased approach towards participants should be developed at all stages;
- at the application stage, it is recommended to require shorter proposals with fewer details of work packages and a focus on the appropriateness of partnerships;
- at the evaluation of proposals stage, it is recommended: (i) that more complete and helpful feedback is made available to proposers whose ideas are not funded; (ii) to test a new approach whereby proposals are not fully evaluated initially (all applications passing a few basic checks should be given a small amount of "seed funding" for an exploratory phase); (iii) to explore expanding the two-step evaluation procedure from the Open part of the "future and emerging technology" area to other parts of the programme;
- it is recommended to: (i) optimise reporting and allow the participants to report when there is something to report; (ii) allow the refocusing of the research on different priorities if this becomes necessary during implementation; (iii) allow more flexibility in the composition of partnerships during the project;
- the Commission should take new initiatives to allow public authorities to procure the development of innovative goods and services;
- the European single market needs to be made more effective for business angels and venture capitalists, and European investment funds need to be more effectively utilised to pull through innovations from the Framework Programmes;
- there is a need for a more strategic approach to standardisation at the European level, when this cannot be left to market forces, focused on interoperability and development of standards;
- interconnection of large regional and national eInfrastructures should be further developed.

The Commission invites the European Parliament and the Council to take note of the findings and recommendations of the evaluation Panel, and to reflect on how best to take them forward. In particular, the Commission recognises that further reduction of red tape remains a significant challenge. It shares the Panel’s view of the need to develop a risktolerant implementation of the rules on research funding. It believes that the European Parliament and the Council also have a role to play in enabling such a trustbased environment, and invites them to take this into account in future discussions of the FP Rules of Participation and the Financial Regulation.

The Commission will consult on the findings and recommendations with the aim to increase flexibility, cut red tape and to respond to the call for a greater strategic impact from EU level research. To this end, the Commission is launching an on-line public consultation on broader and longer-term policy implications alongside the present evaluation report, the results of which will be summarised in a Communication on ICT research and innovation in early 2009.

The interim evaluation of ICT RTD in the FP7 will also allow the effectiveness of new measures to be assessed. It will be available in late 2009 as a basis for further reflection.