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REPORT

on the proposal for a Council decision on the Specific Programme:
"Capacities" implementing the 7th Framework Programme (2007-2013) of the
European Community for research, technological development and
demonstration activities
(COM(2005)0443 – C6-0384/2005 – 2005/0188(CNS))

Committee on Industry, Research and Energy

Rapporteur: Vittorio Prodi

Symbols for procedures

- * Consultation procedure
majority of the votes cast
- **I Cooperation procedure (first reading)
majority of the votes cast
- **II Cooperation procedure (second reading)
majority of the votes cast, to approve the common position
majority of Parliament's component Members, to reject or amend the common position
- *** Assent procedure
majority of Parliament's component Members except in cases covered by Articles 105, 107, 161 and 300 of the EC Treaty and Article 7 of the EU Treaty
- ***I Codecision procedure (first reading)
majority of the votes cast
- ***II Codecision procedure (second reading)
majority of the votes cast, to approve the common position
majority of Parliament's component Members, to reject or amend the common position
- ***III Codecision procedure (third reading)
majority of the votes cast, to approve the joint text

(The type of procedure depends on the legal basis proposed by the Commission.)

Amendments to a legislative text

In amendments by Parliament, amended text is highlighted in ***bold italics***. Highlighting in *normal italics* is an indication for the relevant departments showing parts of the legislative text for which a correction is proposed, to assist preparation of the final text (for instance, obvious errors or omissions in a given language version). These suggested corrections are subject to the agreement of the departments concerned.

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DRAFT EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION

on the proposal for a Council decision on the Specific Programme: "Capacities" implementing the 7th Framework Programme (2007-2013) of the European Community for research, technological development and demonstration activities (COM(2005)0443 – C6-0384/2005 – 2005/0188(CNS))

(Consultation procedure)

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the Commission proposal to the Council (COM(2005)0443)¹,
 - having regard to Article 166 of the EC Treaty, pursuant to which the Council consulted Parliament (C6-0384/2005),
 - having regard to Rule 51 of its Rules of Procedure,
 - having regard to the report of the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy and the opinions of the Committee on Budgets and of the Committee on Culture and Education (A6-0371/2006),
1. Approves the Commission proposal as amended;
 2. Considers that the indicative financial reference amount indicated in the legislative proposal must be compatible with the ceiling of heading 1a of the new multiannual financial framework and points out that the annual amount will be decided within the annual budgetary procedure in accordance with the provisions of point 38 of the Interinstitutional Agreement between the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission on budgetary discipline and sound financial management of 17 May 2006;
 3. Calls on the Commission to alter its proposal accordingly, pursuant to Article 250(2) of the EC Treaty;
 4. Calls on the Council to notify Parliament if it intends to depart from the text approved by Parliament;
 5. Asks the Council to consult Parliament again if it intends to amend the Commission proposal substantially;
 6. Instructs its President to forward its position to the Council and Commission.

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendments by Parliament

¹ Not yet published in OJ.

Amendment 1
Recital 4

(4) The Framework Programme should complement the activities carried out in the Member States as well as other Community actions that are necessary for the overall strategic effort for the implementation of the Lisbon objectives, alongside in particular *with* those on structural funds, agriculture, education, training, competitiveness and innovation, industry, health, consumer protection, employment, energy, transport and environment.

(4) The Framework Programme should complement the activities carried out in the Member States ***and by the Member States through their participation in European intergovernmental research organisations*** as well as other Community actions that are necessary for the overall strategic effort for the implementation of the Lisbon objectives, alongside in particular those on structural funds, agriculture, education, training, ***culture***, competitiveness and innovation, industry, health, consumer protection, employment, energy, transport and *the* environment.

Justification

In order to ensure consistency with the FP7 proposal and the other Specific Programme proposals, the mentioning of the intergovernmental research activities is necessary. Research activities conducted by the Member States through their participation in intergovernmental organisations means the strengths of European research on world-wide level.

Amendment 2
Recital 9

(9) Research activities carried out within this programme should respect fundamental ethical principles, including those which are reflected in the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union,

(9) Research activities carried out within this programme should respect fundamental ethical principles, including those which are reflected in the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union ***and reassert the civic and humanistic values of research, ensuring respect for ethnic and cultural diversity.***

Justification

The tension affecting research, sometimes fruitful and sometimes destructive, arising from the divide between the impressive progress made by research on the one hand and the requirements of society in economic, political and cultural terms on the other, is now greater than ever, requiring a pause for thought regarding the ethical issues and questions of cultural diversity facing the world of research.

Amendment 3
Recital 10

(10) The Framework Programme ***should*** contribute towards promoting sustainable development.

(10) The Framework Programme ***must*** contribute towards promoting sustainable development.

Amendment 4
Recital 11 a (new)

(11a) To simplify calls for proposals and reduce costs, the Commission should set up a database as a prerequisite for notifying participants in calls for proposals.

Justification

Easier access to the programme for European research institutions and interested parties in a call for proposals.

Amendment 5
Article 3, a, paragraph 1 (new)

1. The Commission shall take all necessary steps to verify that the actions financed are carried out effectively and in compliance with the provisions of the Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No. 1605/2002.

Amendment 6
Article 3 a, paragraph 2 (new)

2. The overall administrative expenditure of the programme, including internal and management expenditure for the executive agency which it is proposed to set up, should be proportional to the activities undertaken under the programme and is subject to the decision of the budgetary and legislative authorities.

Justification

The appropriations allocated to the Executive Agency should comply with the provisions of the Code of conduct on the setting up of an Executive agency and Council Regulation N°58/2003 laying down the statute for executive agencies to be entrusted with certain tasks in the management of Community programs. This will ensure appropriate financing of the actions of the programme.

Amendment 7

Article 3 a, paragraph 3 (new)

3. Budget appropriations shall be used in accordance with the principle of sound financial management, namely in accordance with the principles of economy, efficiency and effectiveness, as well as the principle of proportionality.

Amendment 8

Article 5, paragraph 3

3. Annex IV to this Specific Programme sets out ***an*** initiative for the joint implementation of national research programmes that would be the subject of a separate decision on the basis of *article* 169 of the Treaty.

3. Annex IV to this Specific Programme sets out ***a possible*** initiative for the joint implementation of national research programmes that would be the subject of a separate decision on the basis of *Article* 169 of the Treaty.

Amendment 9

Article 5 a (new)

Article 5a

The Commission shall provide prior information to the budgetary authority whenever it intends to depart from the breakdown of expenditure stated in the remarks in and annex to the annual budget.

Justification

This procedure was introduced as a result of an agreement between the Committee on Budgets and the Commission in October 1999. The draftsman considers that the procedure

should be maintained to improve the follow-up of the use of funds in the specific programmes of FP7.

Amendment 10
Article 6, paragraph 2

2. The Work Programme shall take account of relevant research activities carried out by the Member States, associated countries and European and international organisations. It shall be updated where appropriate.

2. The Work Programme shall take account of relevant research activities carried out by the Member States, associated countries and European and international organisations, ***with the aim of increasing synergies with such activities, achieving European added value, influencing industrial competitiveness and maintaining relevance to other Community policies.*** It shall be updated where appropriate.

Justification

Against a background of fierce industrial competitiveness, emphasis should be placed on European added value and the importance of Community policies.

In order to create a consistent ERA for the benefit of Europe, the Work Programme should aim of increasing synergies with the existing research activities, and not only taking them into account.

Amendment 11
Article 7, paragraph 3 a (new)

3a. The Commission shall ensure that the research results are evaluated and shall report on their contribution to a dynamic, knowledge-based society in Europe.

Justification

The Commission has to show that the programme's goal of a dynamic, knowledge-based society in Europe has actually been achieved.

Amendment 12
Article 8, paragraph 5

5. The Commission shall regularly inform the Committee of the overall progress of the implementation of the Specific Programme, and shall provide ***it*** with information about all RTD actions funded under this programme.

5. The Commission shall regularly inform the Committee ***and the committee responsible within the European Parliament*** of the overall progress of the implementation of the Specific Programme, and shall provide ***them*** with information

about all RTD actions funded under this programme.

Justification

The Commission is presenting provisions for a comitology procedure in the context of cooperation with the Council here. It is appropriate to inform the other arm of the budgetary authority, as well, of the implementation of the programme.

Amendment 13
Article 8, paragraph 5 a (new)

5a. The Commission's evaluation report shall contain an assessment of the soundness of financial management and an evaluation of the efficiency and regularity of the budgetary and economic management of the programme.

Amendment 14
Article 8 a (new)

.Article 8a

The Commission shall submit the present Decision and a report on the implementation of the Specific Programme to the competent bodies for review in sufficient time to ensure that the procedure for modifying this Decision can be completed by the end of 2010.

Justification

The review of the decision during its projected term (mid-term review) makes it possible, in the context of an evaluation and, possibly, corrective action, to react to problems with implementation or to other developments. Owing to the running-in phase of the programme which exists in practice, the review takes place a year after the mid-point of the period covered by the programme. This amendment is intended to make the evaluation more reliable.

Amendment 15
Annex I, subtitle 'Introduction', paragraph 1, indent 5

- Bringing science and society closer together for the harmonious integration of science and technology in European society;

- Bringing science and society closer together for the harmonious integration of science and technology in European society.

and

Enabling existing EU, national or regional information help desks to provide SMEs, industry and knowledge institutions with full information on the Framework Programme, the Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme and the Structural Funds; and

Justification

Existing informational help desks have to receive guidance and information so that they can be of service to SMEs, industry and knowledge institutions and do this with the idea of complementarity between the funds.

Amendment 16

Annex I, subtitle 'Introduction', paragraph 1, indent 6

- Horizontal actions and measures in support of international cooperation.

- Horizontal actions and measures in support of international cooperation, ***including cross-border and interregional cooperation.***

Justification

The same principle that goes for international co-operation has to be used for cross-border and interregional co-operation.

Amendment 17

Annex I, subtitle 'Introduction', paragraph 4

Actions for the coordination of non-Community programmes may be undertaken in this Specific Programme making use of the ERA-NET scheme and the participation of the Community in jointly implemented national research programmes (Treaty Article 169) as described in the Cooperation Specific Programme.

Actions for the coordination of non-Community programmes may be undertaken in this Specific Programme making use of the ERA-NET scheme and the participation of the Community in jointly implemented national research programmes (Treaty Article 169) as described in the Cooperation Specific Programme. ***Actions will also be used to enhance the complementarity and synergy between the Framework Programme and activities carried out in the framework of intergovernmental structures.***

Justification

On European level the world leading infrastructures are developed and used by the Member States through their membership in European intergovernmental organisations. The research infrastructures mean a clear added value and benefit for European research, thus they must

be taken into account.

Amendment 18

Annex I, subtitle 'Introduction', heading 'Coherent development of research policies', paragraph 3, bullet 1, subparagraph 1, indent 2

– An industrial research investment monitoring activity to provide *a self-consistent* and complementary source of information to help steer public policy and to *allow* firms to benchmark their R&D investment strategies. This will include periodic scoreboards of firm- and sector-level R&D investment, surveys of private R&D investment trends, analysis of factors affecting R&D investment decisions and practices of firms, analysis of economic impacts, and assessment of policy implications.

– An industrial research investment monitoring activity to provide *an internally consistent* and complementary source of information to help steer public policy and to *enable* firms ***in sectors of key interest to the EU economy*** to benchmark their R&D investment strategies. This will include periodic scoreboards of firm- and sector-level R&D investment, surveys of private R&D investment trends, analysis of factors affecting R&D investment decisions and practices of firms, analysis of economic impacts, and assessment of policy implications.

Justification

Industrial research investment should be encouraged in sectors of key interest to the EU economy.

Amendment 19

Annex I, subtitle 'Introduction', heading, 'Coherent development of research policies', paragraph 3, bullet 2, subparagraph 1

The aim is to strengthen the coordination of research policies via actions to support (i) the implementation of the open method of co-ordination (OMC) and (ii) bottom-up initiatives undertaken by several countries and regions, involving where appropriate other stakeholders (including industry, European organisations and civil society organisations).

The aim is to strengthen the coordination of research policies, ***where this can clearly create added value for research and innovation systems***, via actions to support (i) the implementation of the open method of co-ordination (OMC) and (ii) bottom-up initiatives undertaken by several countries and regions, involving where appropriate other stakeholders (including industry, European organisations and civil society organisations).

Justification

Research policies should be coordinated at the EU level in areas where there is a clear added value for cooperation. Duplication with work undertaken in the Member States' national research policies should be avoided at all costs.

Amendment 20

Annex I, subtitle 'Introduction', heading, 'Coherent development of research policies', paragraph 3, bullet 2, subparagraph 3 a (new)

Special attention will be paid to:

- synergy in the development of research potential in combination with innovation-driven programmes and Structural Funds programmes;

- reducing administrative and physical hindrances to effective cross-border cooperation between regions in different Member States and

- the development of combined research and innovation capacity.

Justification

Within regional policy, cross-border regional policy has distinct features and has a particular meaning for EU integration, trying to surpass the Member States borders. Too often, innovative cooperation across Member States borders is often not successful. This is due to administrative and spatial hindrances. Any help in the coordination of policies within regions and Member States to solve these problems have to be welcomed. Innovation does not stop at a Member State's border.

Amendment 21

Annex I, subtitle 'Research Infrastructure', heading 'Approach', paragraph 1

For Europe to become the most competitive and dynamic knowledge based economy in the world, modern and effective research infrastructures are critical in achieving science and technology leadership. Research infrastructures play a key role in the *creation* of knowledge, in the diffusion of knowledge and its application and exploitation, thus fostering innovation. Access to them is more and more indispensable in all fields of science ***and*** technology. Many Research Infrastructures have evolved from large facilities dedicated almost exclusively to a specific discipline, into service facilities for a broad variety of scientific communities. Enabled by information and communication technology, recent concepts of infrastructure are also expanding to include distributed systems of hardware, software and contents

For Europe to become the most competitive and dynamic knowledge based economy in the world, modern and effective research infrastructures are critical in achieving science and technology leadership. Research infrastructures play a key role in the *acquisition* of knowledge, in the diffusion of knowledge and its application and exploitation, thus fostering innovation. Access to them is more and more indispensable in all fields of science, technology ***and evidence-based policy-making***. Many Research Infrastructures have evolved from large facilities dedicated almost exclusively to a specific discipline, into service facilities for a broad variety of scientific communities. Enabled by information and communication technology, recent concepts of infrastructure are also

with an enormous cumulative value as repositories of knowledge in many diverse disciplines.

expanding to include distributed systems of hardware, software and contents with an enormous cumulative value as repositories of knowledge in many diverse disciplines **and for many diverse communities of users.**

Justification

Research infrastructures have a vital role to play in disseminating research results to a wide range of research disciplines and communities, which is essential for fostering innovation.

Information diffused via these infrastructures can also provide important evidence-based support for policy making.

Amendment 22

Annex I, subtitle 'Research Infrastructure', heading 'Approach', paragraph 2

The proposed action will in particular contribute to the development, exploitation and preservation of knowledge, through its support to research infrastructures based *both* on a bottom-up, excellence-driven approach and a targeted approach. The strategic upgrade of information and *communication based* e-Infrastructures is also seen as a driver in changing the way *science* is conducted.

The proposed action will in particular contribute to the development, exploitation and preservation of knowledge, through its support to research infrastructures based on both a bottom-up, excellence-driven approach and a targeted approach ***consistent with available resources and key European priorities.*** The strategic upgrade of information and *communication-based e-Infrastructures and virtual infrastructures* is also seen as a ***key*** driver in changing the way *scientific work* is conducted ***and is supported by significant investment from public and private actors in all parts of Europe. Coordination with the Member States is essential to the development and funding of infrastructures.***

Justification

Due to the limits on the resources that are available, there should be clear priorities for actions under the Specific Programme "Capacities".

It is important to stress the momentum attached to the upgrade of information and communication based e-Infrastructures in the context of eEurope and national or regional e-strategies.

It is worth specifying in this section that it is the Member States which are responsible for developing research infrastructures and that coordination with them is therefore essential.

Amendment 23

Annex I, subtitle 'Research Infrastructure', heading 'Approach', paragraph 3, introductory part

The term “Research infrastructures” in the context of the *Community Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development* refers to facilities, resources or services that are needed by the research community to conduct research in all scientific and technological fields. This definition covers, including the associated human resources:

The term “Research infrastructures” in the context of the Framework Programme refers to facilities, resources or services that are needed by the research community ***within public, private and civil society domains*** to conduct research in all scientific and technological fields. This definition covers, including the associated human resources:

Justification

Public, private and civil society actors all have the right to access the facilities, resources and services created by research infrastructures.

Amendment 24

Annex I, subtitle 'Research Infrastructure', heading 'Activities', paragraph 1, indent 1

- optimising the utilisation of existing research infrastructures and improving their performance;

- ***as a priority***, optimising the utilisation of existing research infrastructures and improving their performance;

Justification

Optimising the use of existing research infrastructures should be a priority for this specific programmes as this is a more efficient way to use the limited funds that are available.

Amendment 25

Annex I, subtitle 'Research Infrastructure', heading 'Activities', paragraph 1, indents 2 and 3

– *foster* the development of new research infrastructures (or major upgrades to existing ones) of pan-European interest, ***based on*** the work of ESFRI (European Strategy Forum on Research Infrastructures);

– *fostering* the development of new research infrastructures (or major upgrades to existing ones) of pan-European interest, ***including in particular*** the work of ESFRI (European Strategy Forum on Research Infrastructures);

– support measures including support to emerging needs.

– support measures including support to emerging needs ***and technological development capacities in the convergence regions.***

Justification

Provision should be made for emerging needs in the convergence regions.

Amendment 26

Annex I, subtitle 'Research Infrastructure', heading 'Activities', point 1.1.1.

World-class research infrastructures need huge *and* long-term investments in resources (human and financial). They should be used and exploited by *an* as large *as possible* community of scientist and *customer* industries on a European scale. The EU should contribute to this objective through the promotion of Transnational Access. This is intended to open new opportunities for research teams to obtain access to the best research infrastructures, ***including research teams, from peripheral and outermost regions***. This access may be made available to external users, either in person ("hands-on") or by suitable electronic communications. It may also take the form of provision of remote scientific services. This will be implemented through "bottom-up" calls for proposals open to all fields of science and technology without any preference for one field over another.

World-class research infrastructures need huge, long-term investments in resources (human and financial). They should be used and exploited by as large *a* community of scientist and *consumer* industries *as possible*, on a European scale. The EU should contribute to this objective through the promotion of Transnational Access. This is intended to open *up* new opportunities for research teams, ***including those from peripheral and outermost regions***, to obtain access to the best research infrastructures. This access may be made available to external users, either in person ("hands-on") or by suitable electronic communications. It may also take the form of provision of remote scientific services. This will be implemented through "bottom-up" calls for proposals open to all fields of science and technology without any preference for one field over another.

Justification

This point has been reworded for clarification purposes.

Amendment 27

Annex I, subtitle 'Research Infrastructure', heading 'Activities', point 1.1.2., paragraph 2, indent 1

– “bottom-up” calls to catalyse *the* mutual co-ordination and the pooling of resources among *infrastructures* operators with the aim of fostering a culture of cooperation *between* them. Such activities should also aim at structuring better, on a European scale, the way research infrastructures operate, at fostering their joint development in terms of capacity and performance, and at promoting their coherent and cross-disciplinary use;

– “bottom-up” calls to catalyse mutual co-ordination and the pooling of resources among *infrastructure* operators with the aim of fostering a culture of cooperation *among* them. Such activities should also aim at structuring better, on a European scale, the way research infrastructures operate ***and making clearer to potential users how they operate and the conditions of access***, at fostering their joint development in terms of capacity and performance and at promoting their coherent and cross disciplinary use;

Justification

It is essential to improve the transparency of research infrastructures for potential users in order to promote their use by a wider range of communities in all parts of Europe.

Amendment 28

Annex I, subtitle 'Research Infrastructure', heading 'Activities', point 1.1.3., paragraph 1

The deployment of e-Infrastructures provides ***persistent*** services to the research communities based upon ***complex*** processes designed to bring the power of distributed ICT based resources (computing, connectivity, instrumentation) to virtual communities. The reinforcement of a European approach and of related European activities in this domain can make a significant contribution to boosting European research potential and its exploitation, consolidating e-Infrastructures as a cornerstone of the European Research Area, a “forerunner” of cross discipline innovation and a driver in changing the way science is conducted. It ***may also contribute*** to integrate research teams from peripheral and outermost regions.

The deployment of e-Infrastructures provides ***essential*** services to the research communities based upon processes designed to bring the power of distributed ICT based resources (computing, connectivity, instrumentation) to virtual communities. The reinforcement of a European approach and of related European activities in this domain can make a significant contribution to boosting European research potential and its exploitation, consolidating e-Infrastructures as a cornerstone of the European Research Area, a “forerunner” of cross discipline innovation and a driver in changing the way science is conducted. It ***is also essential*** to integrate research teams from peripheral and outermost regions ***using this process***.

Justification

The deployment of e-Infrastructures is an essential tool which can be used to boost the potential of European research and its exploitation and to integrate research teams from peripheral and outermost regions into the European Research Area.

Amendment 29

Annex I, subtitle 'Research Infrastructure', heading 'Activities', point 1.1.3., paragraph 3

It will be necessary to support in a coordinated way digital libraries, archives, data storage, data curation and the necessary pooling of resources, at European level, to organise the data repositories for the scientific community and future generations of scientists. The aspects of enhanced trust and confidence *of* e-Infrastructures will be addressed. The activities proposed will also aim at anticipating and integrating new requirements and solutions to facilitate the emergence of large scale test-beds designed to experiment with new disruptive technologies and to address new user requirements, including e-learning. The eIRG (e-Infrastructure Reflection Group) will assist on a regular basis with strategic

It will be necessary to support in a coordinated way digital libraries (***with a view to creating a European Digital Library***), archives, data storage, data curation and the necessary pooling of resources, at European level, to organise the data repositories for the scientific community and future generations of scientists. The aspects of enhanced trust and confidence *in* e-Infrastructures will be addressed, ***with account being taken of the fact that future generations must be able to access the data***. The activities proposed will also aim at anticipating and integrating new requirements and solutions to facilitate the emergence of large scale test-beds designed to experiment with new disruptive

recommendations.

technologies and to address new user requirements, including e-learning. The eIRG (e-Infrastructure Reflection Group) will assist on a regular basis with strategic recommendations.

Justification

The initiative for a European Digital Library presented by a network of National Public Libraries is capable of preserving and diffusing widely the richness and diversity of the European scientific and cultural heritage by digitising and making accessible online this heritage. The European Digital Library has received support by the European Commission and represents a formidable challenge for European industry.

Amendment 30

Annex I, subtitle 'Research Infrastructures', heading 'Activities', point 1.2, paragraph 1 a (new)

ESFRI as well as technology platforms, joint technology initiatives and the European Research Council will be requested to expressly state their needs for research infrastructure.

Justification

All the stakeholders should express their opinion on construction of new research infrastructures and on the upgrade of the existing ones.

Amendment 31

Annex I, subtitle 'Research Infrastructure', heading 'Activities', point 1.2.2., paragraph 1 and paragraph 2, introductory part

To promote the creation of new research infrastructures ***based on*** the work conducted by ESFRI on the development of a European roadmap for new research infrastructures. ***The Commission will identify*** priority projects to which a possible EC support could be given ***under the Framework Programme***.

The activity *related* to the construction of new infrastructures will be implemented in a two-stage approach:

To promote the creation of new research infrastructures ***in line with the ‘variable geometry’ principle, including especially*** the work conducted by ESFRI on the development of a European roadmap for new research infrastructures. ***The work programme will include selected*** priority projects to which possible EC support could be given.

The activity *relating* to the construction of new infrastructures will be implemented in a two-stage approach ***on the basis of a list of criteria laid down in the Framework Programme***:

Justification

The variable geometry principle should be taken into account when deploying the new research structures pursued by this programme. It is also made clear that the selection criteria for actions under the Specific Programme should correspond to those laid down in the Seventh Framework Programme.

Amendment 32

Annex I, subtitle 'Research Infrastructures', heading 'Activities', point 1.2.2, paragraph 2, bullet 2

In the second stage, building on the achieved technical, legal, administrative and financial agreements, using notably the complementarity between national and Community instruments (such as the Structural funds or the European Investment bank), the construction plans would be implemented. The Framework Programme financial support for the construction phase may be provided to those priority projects for which there is a critical need for such support. In these cases, decisions will be taken through a mechanism that will depend on the nature and the level of funding required (e.g., direct grant; European Investment Bank loans, the access to which may be facilitated through the Risk Sharing Finance Facility (Annex III); Article 171).

In the second stage, building on the achieved technical, legal, administrative and financial agreements, using notably the complementarity between national and Community instruments (such as the Structural funds or the European Investment bank), the construction plans would be implemented ***with the involvement of the appropriate private financial institutions***. The Framework Programme financial support for the construction phase may be provided to those priority projects for which there is a critical need for such support. In these cases, decisions will be taken through a mechanism that will depend on the nature and the level of funding required (e.g., direct grant; European Investment Bank loans, the access to which may be facilitated through the Risk Sharing Finance Facility (Annex III); Article 171).

Justification

The implementation of the research infrastructures must count on the widest possible support

Amendment 33

Annex I, subtitle 'Research Infrastructure', heading 'Activities', point 1.2.2 a (new)

1.2.2.a "Open Innovation" centres

To allow for single-site execution of major collaborative industrial R&D projects, with consortium partners seconding their staff on temporary postings and/or providing open access to research infrastructures and

services on the basis of facility sharing.

Justification

An important new paradigm for ensuring growth from knowledge is 'Open Innovation'. It refers to the trend of companies increasingly building on internal and external sources of ideas to create value from innovation and share the risks. Firms that can harness outside ideas to advance their own business while leveraging their internal ideas outside their current operations will likely thrive. For this to happen, large firms, SMEs, universities and research institutes will need to work closely together in ecosystems for 'Open Innovation'.

Amendment 34

Annex I, subtitle 'Research Infrastructure', heading 'Activities', point 1.2.2. b (new)

1.2.2.b Sharing research results

To establish a Scientific Methods Server which would make a significant contribution to the efficiency of research methods by making the results of certain research steps accessible under comparable conditions.

Justification

One of the conclusions of the STOA study “How to optimise the efficiency of science and research, the most important critical success factors of the high-tech economies –Scientific Methods Server”(Project EP/IV/A/2003/07/01), commissioned by the European Parliament, is that the efficiency of research can be significantly improved by means of such a methods server. In the interest of minimising costs, researchers would be able to call up certain (interim) results, e.g. of laboratory tests, from the methods server and use them for their own work.

Amendment 35

Annex I, subtitle 'Research for the benefit of SMEs', heading 'Approach', paragraph 2

Specific actions will be implemented to support SMEs or SME associations in need of outsourcing research to universities and research centres (***“RTD performers”***). These actions will be carried out *in* the entire field of science and technology. The evaluation of *the* project proposals will take due account of the expected economic impact for *the* SMEs. Financial means will be allocated through two schemes: Research for SMEs and Research for SME associations. The first targets mainly low to medium technology SMEs with little or no research

Specific actions will be implemented to support SMEs or SME associations in need of outsourcing research to ***‘RTD performers’ such as*** universities, research centres ***and research intensive SMEs***. These actions will be carried out *across* the entire field of science and technology. The evaluation of project proposals will take due account of the expected economic impact for SMEs. Financial means will be allocated through two schemes: Research for SMEs and Research for SME associations. The first targets mainly low to medium

capability, but also **research intensive** SMEs *who* need to outsource research to complement their core research capability. The second targets SME associations which are normally best placed to know or identify the common technical problems of their members, to act on their behalf, and to promote the effective dissemination and take-up of *the* results.

technology SMEs with little or no research capability, but also SMEs **with technological capabilities and from traditional sectors** *which* need to outsource research to complement their core **technological** research capability. The second targets SME associations which are normally best placed to know or identify the common technical problems of their members, to act on their behalf, and to promote the effective dissemination and take-up of results.

Justification

The aim is to strengthen the leading role of SMEs with regard to ‘capabilities’; to achieve this, they must be given easier access to ‘RTD performers’ (including SMEs in this category) to ensure that they cover their technological needs even though, because of their characteristics, they are centres with limited research capability, as may be the case for SMEs in traditional sectors.

In addition, research intensive SMEs do not need specific schemes to encourage their participation. On the contrary, SMEs with technological capacities require specific support to develop their research capabilities in cooperation with research agencies so as to generate sustainable technological advantages.

Amendment 36

Annex I, subtitle 'Research for the benefit of SMEs', heading 'Approach', paragraph 3

In addition to these specific actions, the participation of SMEs across the Framework Programme will be encouraged and facilitated. The research needs and potential of SMEs are duly taken into account in developing the content of the thematic areas of the “*co-operation*” programme, which will be implemented through projects of different sizes and scope depending on the field and topic.

In addition to these specific actions, the participation of SMEs across the Framework Programme will be encouraged and facilitated. ***In particular, administrative procedures for SMEs will be made simpler and clearer and costs will be reduced for SMEs benefiting under the Framework Programme.*** The research needs and potential of SMEs are duly taken into account in developing the content of the thematic areas of the “*Cooperation*” programme, which will be implemented through projects of different sizes and scope depending on the field and topic.

To achieve this objective, measures will be taken to facilitate the participation of SMEs individually or in clusters in projects relating to the priority topics of the "Cooperation" programme and in

technological platforms.

When funding projects involving SMEs, efforts will be made to secure the maximum contribution possible from all Community institutions, including the EIB and EIF.

Amendment 37

Annex I, subtitle 'Research for the benefit of SMEs', heading 'Approach', paragraph 4 and paragraph 4 a (new)

During the implementation of the *Community RTD* Framework Programme, complementarity and synergy will be ensured with the actions of the Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme to encourage and facilitate the participation of SMEs in the *Community RTD* Framework Programme.

During the implementation of the Framework Programme, complementarity and synergy will be ensured with the actions of the Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme *so as* to encourage and facilitate the participation of SMEs in the Framework Programme. ***Coordination will also be sought with relevant national research programmes, complementing the research activities outlined below. With this in view, consideration may also be given to possible joint implementation of technological development programmes aimed at SMEs under EUREKA in order to encourage innovatory projects geared to market requirements. The following objectives will be pursued:***

- encouraging SME participation in, and facilitating their access to the Framework Programme; and,

- ensuring that SMEs take full advantage of the funding opportunities available under the Framework Programme.

Simple, short, quick-procedure projects involving no complex financial principles or unnecessary reporting will be introduced. Common application and contractual principles will be applied in both the Framework Programme and the Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme, where possible.

Amendment 38

Annex I, subtitle 'Research for the benefit of SMEs', heading 'Approach', paragraph 4 b (new)

Mechanisms will also be introduced for

cooperation with national and regional R&D support programmes for SMEs, with the aim of providing a more local service geared to their requirements and strengthening the critical mass and European dimension of the various national support schemes.

Justification

Use should be made of national and regional programmes and infrastructures to support R&D activities by SMEs in order to carry out the research activities under this programme to the benefit of SMEs. Programmes will not only be more efficient, have greater local presence and be more in line with the specific needs of SMEs, but will also contribute to coordinating and harmonising national policies and support schemes.

Amendment 39

Annex I, subtitle 'Research for the benefit of SMEs', heading 'Activities', paragraph 1, bullet 1

This scheme supports small groups of innovative SMEs to solve common or complementary technological problems. Projects, which are relatively short term, must be centred on the innovation needs of the SMEs which outsource research to RTD performers and must demonstrate a clear exploitation potential for the SMEs concerned.

This scheme supports ***the creation of*** small groups of innovative SMEs ***and craft undertakings*** to solve common or complementary technological problems ***and supports them in this work***. Projects, which are relatively short term, must be centred on the innovation needs of the SMEs which outsource research to RTD performers and must demonstrate a clear exploitation potential for the SMEs concerned.

Justification

Measures to support SMES should include increasing efforts to encourage SMEs to work together by forming groups with similar research and innovation interests.

Amendment 40

Annex I, subtitle 'Research for the benefit of SMEs', heading 'Activities', paragraph 1, bullet 2 a (new)

Research for small groups of SMEs.
To support small groups of innovative SMEs in solving common or complementary technological problems, through the Framework Programme and/or intergovernmental funding schemes such as the Commission's, EIB's and European

Bank for Reconstruction and Development's (EBRD) JEREMIE and JASPER initiatives.

Justification

JEREMIE and JASPER are initiatives of the Commission, the European Investment Bank and the European Bank for Regional Development, specially focused on SME support in all Member States. MS can choose to step in the programme. Object of the funding should be access to finance and the latter being a necessity for research development for SMEs. In view of the strategic guidelines of the Commission in regional innovation policy, complementarity between JEREMIE / JASPER is important.

What EUREKA is concerned : this is a international cooperation between Member States and Commission and provides support for high tech SMEs. Amendment 41

Annex I, subtitle 'Research for the benefit of SMEs', heading 'Activities', subheading 'Common features of the schemes', indent 3 a (new)

- In order to stimulate R&D in research-performing SMEs with high growth potential on a sustainable basis, the Commission may also put forward a proposal for an Article 169 of the Treaty initiative in cooperation with EUREKA (e.g. the Eurostars initiative).

Justification

In the proposal for FP7 SP 'Capacities - Research for SMEs', no reference is made to the cooperation between Commission, Member States and Eureka to improve access for high-growth SMEs to research. The currently mentioned SME specific instruments do not suit the need of these research performing SMEs.

Amendment 42

Annex I, subtitle 'Regions of knowledge', heading 'Approach', paragraph 3

“Regions of Knowledge” aims at supporting the definition and implementation of optimal policies and strategies for the development of R&D driven clusters. In particular it will improve the relevance and effectiveness of regional research agendas through mutual learning; promote and strengthen cooperation between clusters; and contribute to strengthening the sustainable development of existing R&D driven clusters as well as foster the creation of new ones. Support will

Regions of Knowledge” aims at supporting the definition and implementation of optimal policies and strategies for the development of R&D driven clusters. In particular it will improve the relevance and effectiveness of regional research agendas through mutual learning, promote and strengthen cooperation between clusters and contribute to strengthening the sustainable development of existing R&D driven clusters as well as foster the creation of new ones. Support will

be provided in particular for demand-driven and problem-oriented projects addressing specific technological areas or sectors.

be provided in particular for demand-driven and problem-oriented projects addressing specific technological areas or sectors, ***particularly where these already demonstrate integration between regional authorities, development agencies, universities, research centres and industry.***

Justification

Development of real productive partnerships between regional agencies, authorities, universities and industry is extremely difficult and time-consuming. There are several examples of where this has been achieved through several years of hard work. Some funding in this section could be prioritised to those applications where such productive partnerships can already be demonstrated, to ensure funds are focused on achievement of economic goals.

Amendment 43

Annex I, subtitle 'Regions of knowledge', heading 'Approach', paragraph 4 a (new)

Attention must be paid specifically to co-operation between adjacent regions in different Member States. As with the INTERREG III programmes in the EU, and on the basis of the territorial objective of the Structural Funds, the Regions of Knowledge programme must also incorporate solutions to cross-border hindrances and mechanisms to encourage cross-border regional co-operation in the research area, independently of whether the actions fall under a convergence or regional competitiveness objective.

Justification

Within regional policy, cross-border regional policy has distinct features and has a particular meaning for EU integration, trying to surpass the Member States borders. Too often, innovative cooperation across Member States borders is not successful due to administrative and spatial hindrances.

Amendment 44

Annex I, subtitle 'Regions of knowledge', heading 'Activities', paragraph 1, bullet 2

“Mentoring” of regions with a less developed research profile by highly developed ones based on R&D focused cluster building. Transnational regional consortia will mobilise and associate

“Mentoring” of regions with a less developed research profile by highly developed ones based on R&D focused cluster building ***or better integration of existing clusters into the global***

research actors in academia, industry and government to deliver “guidance” solutions with and for technologically less developed regions.

marketplace. Transnational regional consortia will mobilise and associate research actors in academia, industry and government to deliver “guidance” solutions with and for technologically less developed regions. ***Mentoring arrangements must include measures to achieve closer collaboration with the scientific communities of the new Member States.***

Justification

Existing clusters should be further developed by the formation of partnerships with organisations conducting similar research on a regional, national and international level.

Amendment 45

Annex I, subtitle 'Regions of knowledge', heading 'Activities', paragraph 1, bullet 3

- Initiatives to improve integration of research actors and institutions in regional economies, through their interactions at cluster level. These will include transnational activities to improve links between research stakeholders and the local business communities as well as relevant activities between clusters.

- Initiatives to improve integration of research actors and institutions in regional economies, through their interactions at cluster level. These will include transnational activities to improve links between research stakeholders and the local business communities as well as relevant activities between clusters. ***These activities could help to identify RDT complementarities, with a view to demonstrating the advantages of integration.***

Justification

The aim is to identify synergies so as to highlight the benefits of complementarity.

Amendment 46

Annex I, subtitle 'Regions of knowledge', heading 'Activities', paragraph 2

Support will also be provided to activities to promote systematic mutual information exchange as well as interactions between similar projects and where appropriate, with actions *of* other relevant Community programmes (e.g. analysis and synthesis workshops, roundtables, publications).

Support will also be provided to activities to promote systematic mutual information exchange as well as interactions between similar projects and, where appropriate, with actions *under* other relevant Community programmes (e.g. analysis and synthesis workshops, roundtables, publications) ***and the involvement of third countries where this is essential to the objectives of a project.***

Justification

Third countries can make an important contribution to the process of mentoring and exchange of best practice.

Amendment 47

Annex I, subtitle 'Research Potential', heading 'Activities', paragraph 1, bullet 1

- Exchange know-how and experience through *trans-national* two-way secondments of research staff between the selected centres in *the* qualifying regions and one or more partner organisations in ***another EU State***, with in-built obligatory return mechanisms for seconded staff *originating* from *the* selected centres in *the* qualifying regions;

- Exchange *of* know-how and experience through *transnational*, two-way secondments of research staff ***and managers*** between the selected centres in qualifying regions and one or more partner organisations in ***a Member State, associated country, neighbouring country or third country***, with in-built obligatory return mechanisms for seconded staff from selected centres in qualifying regions;

Justification

It is important to include managers for research and innovation activities into the exchange mechanism of personal.

Amendment 48

Annex I, subtitle 'Research potential', heading 'Activities', paragraph 1, bullet 4

- ☐ The organisation of workshops and conferences to facilitate knowledge transfer at national and international level involving both the selected centres' own research staff and invited researchers, from other countries in the frame of the development of the selected centres' international training capacity and reputation; participation of the research staff of the centres selected under the scheme at international conferences or short term training events, for knowledge sharing, network building and to expose them to a more international environment;

- ☐ The organisation of workshops and conferences to facilitate knowledge transfer at national, regional and international level involving both the selected centres' own research staff and invited researchers, from other countries in the frame of the development of the selected centres' international training capacity and reputation; participation of the research staff of the centres selected under the scheme at international conferences or short term training events, for knowledge sharing, network building and to expose them to a more international environment;

Amendment 49

Annex I, subtitle 'Science in Society', heading 'Objective', paragraph 1 a (new)

Scientific knowledge and social

development will influence each other, particularly in the area of environmental policy. In addition, to counter irrational and pseudo-scientific arguments put forward in public debates more quantitative elements will be used.

Justification

Scientific knowledge and social development should be developed in parallel.

Amendment 50

Annex I, subtitle 'Science in society', heading 'Approach', paragraph 2

The development of European societies largely depends on their capacity to create, exploit and disseminate knowledge and, from there, to continuously innovate. Scientific research plays a major role in this regard, and should continue being one of the driving forces in promoting growth, welfare and sustainable development.

The development of European societies largely depends on their capacity to create, exploit and disseminate knowledge and, from there, to continuously innovate. ***New knowledge develops across society as a whole, but a key role in its creation is played by the 'knowledge triangle' of research, education and innovation.*** Scientific research plays a major role in this regard, and should continue being one of the driving forces in promoting growth, welfare and sustainable development.

Justification

It should be stressed that the process of knowledge creation occurs across society and although research and research bodies are the most important element in this process, a key role is also played by connections and links between research, education and innovation.

Amendment 51

Annex I, subtitle 'Science in society', heading 'Approach', paragraph 3

To achieve this aim, it is imperative that a social and cultural environment conducive to successful and exploitable research is created. This means that legitimate societal concerns and needs are taken on board, entailing an enhanced democratic debate with a more engaged and informed public, and better conditions for collective choices on scientific issues. It should also establish a climate favourable to scientific vocations, a new surge of research investments and the

To achieve this aim, it is imperative that a social and cultural environment conducive to successful and exploitable research is created. This means that legitimate societal concerns and needs are taken on board, entailing an enhanced democratic debate with a more engaged and informed public, and better conditions for collective choices on scientific issues. ***Civil society organisations will be allowed to outsource research needs.*** It should also establish a

subsequent dissemination of knowledge upon which the Lisbon *strategy* is built.

climate favourable to scientific vocations, a new surge of research investments and the subsequent dissemination of knowledge upon which the Lisbon *Strategy* is built.

This activity will also seek to bring about the full integration of women into the scientific world. It is necessary for issues relating to 'science and society' (such as the relationship between technology, employment and the workplace or major choices in the field of energy, the environment or health) to take on an ever greater European dimension.

Justification

Civil Society Organizations as defined by the European Commission (see the database CONNEX of the European Commission) should be given the possibility to outsource research projects to cover their scientific needs.

Amendment 52

Annex I, subtitle 'Science in society', heading 'Approach', paragraph 7, indent 4

- bridge the gap between those who have a scientific education and those who do not, promote a taste for scientific culture in the direct neighbourhood of all citizens (calling upon cities, regions, foundations, science centres, etc.),

- bridge the gap between those who have a scientific education and those who do not, promote a taste for scientific culture in the direct neighbourhood of all citizens (calling upon cities, regions, foundations, science centres, ***museums, civil society organisations***, etc.),

Justification

Museums and given civil society organisations should be bracketed together with science centres for the above purpose.

Amendment 53

Annex I, subtitle 'Science in society', heading 'Approach', paragraph 7, indent 4 a (new)

- encourage debate and discussion in the research community about the social aspects of research,

Justification

One major obstacle to mutual understanding between the research community and the rest of society is the lack of discussion within the research community on social aspects of research, such as the ethical aspects or consequences of new technology.

Amendment 54

Annex I, subtitle 'Science in society', heading 'Approach', paragraph 7, indent 4 b (new)

- explore ways of governing the European research and innovation system better,

Justification

Governance too is important in R & D.

Amendment 55

Annex I, subtitle 'Science in society', heading 'Approach', paragraph 7, indent 6

- provide an image of science and researchers which is meaningful to all, especially to young people,

- portray science and researchers as trustworthy and provide an image of science and researchers which is meaningful to all, especially to young people,

Justification

The trustworthiness of scientific, especially frontier, research results is increasingly being put to the doubt by sceptical public opinions that perceive many scientists as being too vulnerable to venality or careerism. The EU can take action to combat alarmism and to restore the public's confidence in European science.

Amendment 56

Annex I, subtitle 'Science in society', heading 'Approach', paragraph 7, indent 7

- **help women to continue to** progress in scientific careers and better use their scientific talents for the benefit of all,

- **boost women's** progress in scientific careers and **the** use **of** their scientific talents for the benefit of all,

Justification

In this context it would be better to talk of 'boosting' as opposed to 'helping'.

Amendment 57

Annex I, subtitle 'Science in society', heading 'Approach', paragraph 7, indent 8

– renew science communication, favouring modern means to achieve higher impact, helping scientists to work closely with media professionals.

– renew science communication, favouring modern means to achieve higher impact, helping scientists to work closely with media professionals, **particularly in the field of new ICT.**

Amendment 58

Annex I, subtitle 'Science in society', heading 'Approach', paragraph 7, indent 8 a (new)

– collaborate with not-for-profit drug development initiatives.

Justification

Not for profit research should be a priority for public funds.

Amendment 59

Annex I, subtitle 'Science in society', heading 'Approach', sub-heading 'First action line:', bullet 1, indent 1

– improving the use, and monitoring the impact, of scientific advice and expertise for policy-making in Europe, and developing practical tools and schemes (e.g. electronic networks)

– assisting with continuing and refresher training for the professionals and officials who administer aid and research programmes in the Member States and thier regions, working towards uniform methods and familiarty with best practice

Amendment 60

Annex I, subtitle 'Science in society', heading 'Approach', subheading 'First action line: ', bullet 1, indent 2

- promoting trust and self-regulation in the scientific community

- promoting **democratic accountability**, trust and self-regulation in the scientific community, **redefining and disseminating the basic criteria for scientific safeguards**

Justification

One of the problems in the perception of science by the public opinion at large is its increasing scepticism towards the impartiality and objectivity of scientists in many widely publicized dossiers (e.g. medical research and biotechnologies) where the stakes are high. The EU can act to impose more transparency in the sources of funding and in the pressures influencing the course of scientific research, and thus create a climate more favourable to the flourishing of science.

Amendment 61

Annex I, subtitle 'Science in society', heading 'Approach', subheading 'First action line: ', bullet 2, indent 2 a (new)

- Greater emphasis on discussion within the research community of the social aspects of research.

Justification

One major obstacle to mutual understanding between the research community and the rest of society is the lack of discussion within the research community on social aspects of research,

such as the ethical aspects or consequences of new technology. This can be counteracted by an approach which targets the research community's own understanding of the social aspects of research.

Amendment 62

Annex I, subtitle 'Science in society', heading 'Approach', sub-heading 'First action line:', bullet 3

In order to address the relationship between science and society through sound policies, the knowledge accumulated **in** the history, sociology and philosophy of sciences needs to be expanded, consolidated and spread at European level. To this end, scholars from these disciplines should form networks to structure research and debates capable of revealing the real participation of science in building a European society and identity, stressing in particular:

- Relationships between science, democracy and law
- Research on ethics in science and technology
- The reciprocal influence of science and culture
- The role and the image of **scientists**

In order to address the relationship between science and society through sound policies, the knowledge accumulated **throughout** the **course** of history, **of our scientific and technological heritage, and of** the sociology and philosophy of sciences needs to be expanded, consolidated and spread at European level. To this end, scholars from these disciplines should form networks to structure research and debates capable of revealing **and contributing to a debate on** the real participation of science in building a European society and identity, stressing in particular:

- Relationships between science, democracy and law
- Research on ethics in science and technology
- The reciprocal influence of science and culture
- The role and the image of **men and women in science**
- **Risk assessment and management procedures as tools for decision-making, in order to limit irrational societal reactions**
- **Ways of making science more comprehensible to society and fostering public debate.**

Justification

Scientific and technological heritage goes beyond history, the medium through which it is handed down. Furthermore, knowledge should not remain consigned to the scientific elite who understand and wield it; ways must be found to bring science closer to society by making it a more comprehensible field of knowledge.

Risk assessment is a procedure that allows a comparison to be made between different options in a quantitative way. Any effort should be made to inform citizens and so to limit the

irrational implications on the decision taking.

Amendment 63

Annex I, subtitle ‘Science in society’, heading ‘Approach’, sub-heading ‘Second action line:’, bullet 2, introductory part

Activities will be designed to attract more people into scientific careers, foster links across generations, **and** raise the level of scientific literacy generally. European exchanges and cooperation will concentrate on science teaching methods adapted to young audiences, the support to science teachers (concepts, materials), developing the linkages between schools and professional life. In addition, events with a broad European scope may be supported which bring together distinguished scientists – as “role models” – and aspiring young scientists. Underpinning research will be addressed, taking into account social contexts and cultural values. Three aspects have been retained:

Activities will be designed to attract more people into scientific careers, foster links across generations, raise the level of scientific literacy generally **and above all analyse the factors which deter young people from opting for a career in the field of science and technology.** European exchanges and cooperation will concentrate on science teaching methods adapted to young audiences, the support to science teachers (concepts, materials), developing the linkages between schools and professional life. In addition, events with a broad European scope may be supported which bring together distinguished scientists – as “role models” – and aspiring young scientists. Underpinning research will be addressed, taking into account social contexts and cultural values. Three aspects have been retained:

Justification

In recent years, the number of young people in Europe opting for scientific subjects has been declining at the very time when Europe needs to increase its scientific and technological capacity. This is aggravated by the fact that European universities do not have sufficient scientific staff to replace lecturers following their retirement and fewer scientific and technological graduates are finding research posts. In order to encourage young people to embark on a career in the field of science and technology, it is necessary to understand the factors currently deterring them from so doing.

Amendment 64

Annex I, subtitle ‘Science in society’, heading ‘Approach’, sub-heading ‘Second action line:’, bullet 2, indent 3 a (new)

– *Stepping up the teaching of science subjects in the EU at every level of national curricula.*

Justification

According to Eurobarometer surveys, young people in Europe are generally well disposed towards science and technology, the relevant findings being well able to stand comparison with those regarding previous generations. The waning interest in scientific disciplines appears to be due to the way in which science is taught at school, the complexity of the subject and the apparent lack of attractive career prospects. It is therefore necessary to step up the teaching of scientific subjects in the European Union at every level of the national curricula.

Amendment 65

Annex I, subtitle 'Science in society', heading 'Approach', sub-heading 'Third action line:', indent 5

– Promotion of excellent *trans-national* research and science communication by *the* means of popular *Prizes*

– Promotion of excellent *transnational* research and science communication by means of popular *prizes* ***and the introduction of a Week for Scientific Culture***

Justification

It is important to establish a Week for Scientific Culture in all the Member States to promote greater awareness of scientific disciplines and establish lines of communication between schools, universities, (public and private) research bodies and companies.

Amendment 66

Annex I, subtitle 'Science in society', heading 'Approach', subheading 'Third action line: ', indents 6 a and 6 b (new)

- Improved communication of the results of research and research-related problems by the scientific community to both political decision-makers and the public, with the aim of making an informed contribution to the debate on science policy
- Encouraging researchers communicating with society at large to be open as regards underlying assumptions and values, uncertainties and possible economic interests in their research.

Justification

I: Along with the growth in the Knowledge Society and the increased role of research in social development, it is even more necessary for researchers to become better at communicating their results to the outside world. This is a prerequisite if Europe is to be able to exploit its potential in the Knowledge Economy;

2: Particularly in the medical sciences, systems have been established in recent years for the declaration of interests, and there is a growing need for this to be extended to other areas; this also implies the need to establish and develop principles.

Amendment 67

Annex I, subtitle 'Science in society', heading 'Approach', sub-heading 'Third action line a:' (new)

Third action line a: Multilingualism

Initiatives under the Framework Programme will seek to underpin R&D regarding information society technologies in the linguistic field and to promote science and technology in the area of multilingualism.

Amendment 68

Annex I, subtitle 'Activities of international cooperation', heading 'Objective', paragraph 2 a (new)

An overall strategy for international cooperation encompassing all the international actions carried out under the various specific programmes within the Framework Programme will be prepared.

Justification

International co-operation is also of interest for frontier research.

Amendment 69

Annex I, subtitle 'Activities of international cooperation', heading 'Approach', paragraph 1, introductory part

In order to identify and establish the priority areas of research of mutual interest and mutual benefit with targeted third countries (International Cooperation Partner Countries) for the specific international cooperation actions of the Cooperation Specific Programme, ongoing policy dialogues and partnership networks will be enhanced with the different regions in these third countries to provide input to help implement these actions. Coherence of national activities on international scientific cooperation will be enhanced by supporting the *co-ordination* of national programmes

In order to identify and establish the priority areas of research of mutual interest and mutual benefit with targeted third countries (International Cooperation Partner Countries) for the specific international cooperation actions of the Cooperation Specific Programme, ongoing policy dialogues and partnership networks will be enhanced with the different regions in these third countries to provide input to help implement these actions, ***and scope will be afforded for coordination with the Member States' international activities so as to achieve synergy.*** Coherence of national

(Member States, *Candidate* and associated countries) through multilateral *co-ordination* of national RTD policies and activities. Cooperation with third countries in the Framework Programme will be targeted in particular at the following groups of countries:

activities on international scientific cooperation will be enhanced by supporting the *coordination* of national programmes (Member States, *candidate* and associated countries) through multilateral *coordination* of national RTD policies and activities. Cooperation with third countries in the Framework Programme will be targeted in particular at the following groups of countries:

Amendment 70

Annex I, subtitle 'Activities of international cooperation', heading 'Approach', paragraph 2

The theme-oriented international cooperation actions are carried out under the Cooperation Specific Programme. The international actions in the area of human potential are carried out under the People Specific programme. ***The horizontal support*** activities of international cooperation are described in this programme. The overall coordination of the international cooperation actions under the different programmes will be ensured.

The theme-oriented international cooperation actions are carried out under the Cooperation Specific Programme. The international actions in the area of human potential are carried out under the People Specific programme. Activities of international cooperation ***and specific cooperation activities including measures to support the implementation of the European strategy for international co-operation in science*** are described in this programme. The overall coordination of the international cooperation actions under the different programmes will be ensured.

Justification

Frontier research has to be open to international co-operation and as mentioned in Amendment 1, activities of mutual interest that can not be considered as "horizontal" and will not be funded through the other specific programmes should take place under this heading. In addition, it would be useless to define an overall strategy without securing the financial means to implement it. These means have to be located under the heading "Activities of international co-operation" and would be used in order to avoid the fragmentation between the thematic priorities and specific programmes and to develop synergy with other policies such as development aid policy.

This part of the programme must not be confined to horizontal coordination activities, but must also provide for the funding of projects, not necessarily linked to the priority themes of the Cooperation Specific Programme.

Amendment 71

Annex III, paragraph 1

In accordance with Annex II, the

In accordance with Annex II, the

Community will provide a grant (Coordination and support action) to the European Investment Bank (EIB). This grant will contribute to the Community's objective *to foster* private sector investment in **research** by increasing the capacity of the *Bank* to manage risk, thus allowing for (i) a larger volume of EIB lending for a certain level of risk, and (ii) the financing of riskier European RTD actions than would be possible without such Community support.

Community will provide a grant (Coordination and support action) to the European Investment Bank (EIB), **which will be a partner in the risk shared**. This grant will contribute to the Community's objective *of fostering* private sector investment in **RTD and demonstration** by increasing the capacity of the *EIB* to manage risk, thus allowing for (i) a larger volume of EIB lending **and guarantees** for a certain level of risk, and (ii) the financing of riskier European RTD actions than would be possible without such Community support.

Justification

Amendment needed to clarify the role of the EIB.

Amendment 72 Annex III, paragraph 2

The EIB will lend funds raised from international financial markets in accordance with its standard rules, regulations and procedures. It will then use this grant, together with its own funds, as provisions and capital allocation within the bank to cover part of the risks associated with these loans to eligible **large** European RTD actions.

The EIB will lend funds raised from international financial markets in accordance with its standard rules, regulations and procedures. It will then use this grant, together with its own funds, as provisions and capital allocation within the bank to cover part of the risks associated with these loans to eligible European RTD actions.

Justification

There is no reason to restrict access to the EIB in any way; loans should not be confined to 'large' actions.

Amendment 73 Annex III, paragraph 5, bullet 2

- The eligibility of **large** European RTD actions. By default, the development of research infrastructures funded by the Community under this Specific Programme shall be automatically eligible. Other research infrastructures could also be considered. In accordance with the regulation adopted pursuant to Article 167 of the Treaty, the grant agreement will also

- The eligibility of European RTD actions. By default, the development of research infrastructures funded by the Community under this Specific Programme shall be automatically eligible. Other research infrastructures could also be considered. **Irrespective of their size, applicants (including SMEs) may benefit from this instrument to finance their activities.** In

establish procedural modalities and will guarantee to the Community the possibility *to veto* under certain circumstances the use of the grant for provisioning a loan proposed by the EIB.

accordance with the regulation adopted pursuant to Article 167 of the Treaty, the grant agreement will also establish procedural modalities and will guarantee to the Community the possibility *of vetoing* under certain circumstances the use of the grant for provisioning a loan proposed by the EIB.

Justification

To make eligibility for EIB loans subject to size limits would place SMEs at a clear disadvantage and run counter to the spirit of the Specific Programme.

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

Research and Technical Development is of key importance for the European competitiveness. Specifically the function of industrial research has to be enhanced and strengthened if we don't want to lose our manufacturing ability in the EU. On the other hand, it is not possible to keep the design capability in Europe without a manufacturing ability at least in the top of the range of each sector.

The FP7 provides a very good opportunity to design a comprehensive effort to regain competitiveness for the whole Union, by implementing in full commitment the Lisbon scenario.

It should be underlined that FP7 is in fact the expression of the need to deal with R&TD at Union level and it should be pursued as a first nucleus of an economic and social development policy of the Union. Competition is taking place among actors that have continental or comparable scale and overwhelmingly exceed the size of a single Member State. Excellence has therefore to be searched at European scale.

The activities undertaken in this part of the Framework Programme aim to support a coherent development of Research policy, with a specification of the tasks that can be fulfilled at the regional scale in the light of subsidiary principle.

Research and innovation capacities should be facilitated through:

- Optimising the use and development of research infrastructures.
- Strengthening innovative capacities of SMEs and their ability to benefit from research.
- Supporting the development of regional research-driven clusters.
- Unlocking the research potential in the EU's convergence and outermost regions.
- Bringing science and society closer together for the harmonious integration of science and technology in European society.
- Horizontal actions and measures in support of international co-operation.

Support of existing and new research infrastructures should be the key action as well as the human potential development.

Research infrastructures are of fundamental importance for capacity building in Europe since they provide training, research and new business opportunities; in addition they help to create more visibility of European high excellence research.

To optimise the use of existing infrastructures in Europe more coordination is necessary and a community activity on networking existing research infrastructures should be enforced.

As regard the construction of the next generation of large scale infrastructures there is the

need to define a European strategy which should start by identifying the requests of the scientific community.

All the stakeholders could express their opinion on construction of new research infrastructures and on the upgrade of the existing ones. ESFRI should play a key role in this context, but also TPs, JTIs and ERC will be solicited to express the needs for research infrastructures.

As far as the construction of new infrastructures is concerned, an efficient coordination of the Community financial instruments, Framework Programme and Structural Funds in particular, will be ensured, with the involvement of the appropriate private financial institutions. The implementation of the research infrastructures must count on the widest possible support.

A better connection between the world of research and industry should be pursued. Member States should adopt fiscal and/or other measures oriented towards promoting industrial innovation, especially with reference to SMEs. On the other hand, the protection of intellectual property is essential feature for the development of the ERA.

It is absolutely essential to guarantee the intellectual property rights with transparent and simplified procedures that would mostly benefit SMEs.

The generalised involvement of all European enterprises being they Small or Medium or Large into an innovation effort is absolutely necessary for the competitiveness of our manufacturing industries. TPs and JTIs are an appropriate tool to expose all the enterprises to the advantages of the scientific and technological research for innovation.

TPs should be the general tool for fostering European competitiveness, as a bottom-up self organisation of each trade. The enterprises will be the core stakeholders and others will be local institutions, research centres and Universities, Member States, Banks, Chambers of Commerce.

Where appropriate, TPs could have legal personality to organize their work and be able to accept and manage resources coming from the whole range of sources.

TPs could be detailed at the regional level in the form of regional research-driven clusters in order to fully exploit the potential of competitiveness of specific sectors within specific territories, such as the "Regions of knowledge".

Promoting the formation of scientific clusters even at regional level, with the involvement of SMEs within the framework of the TPs is essential. Regional clusters should be inserted into the wider European dimension to fully exploit the benefits of research and innovation.

To this regard support to single SMEs or SMEs associations will be a very useful tool.

Research policy and activities, at regional level, need a strong commitment of enterprises, as well as local institutions, research centres, Universities, Banks, and Chambers of Commerce to unlock the potential which lies in creating spin-off SMEs from research projects.

Synergy among all these actors is essential in order to create the right environment enabling

European regions to strengthen their capacity for investing in R&D. TPs could be the appropriate tool for this kind of generalized participation. In particular, Regional Authorities could plan a strong action to promote those factors that represent a particular strength linked to the territory like industrial clusters (existing or to be implemented). To this end, synergy among Structural Funds and FP7 resources, own regional resources and other financial facilities is to be pursued in order to stimulate the function of R&TD to become a central feature of clusters as it is shown by the successful story of clusters in several European Regions.

Considerable responsibility in the implementation of the objectives of the program should be recognized not only to the capacities of the researchers from the convergence and outermost regions but also to the capability to involve all financial mechanisms in R&TD potentially existing in each region.

A better use of Structural Funds to support R&TD at regional level is essential. Clear references should be made to use the Structural and Cohesion funds for investment in research infrastructure and for bridging the pre-seed gap between research and innovation. In this context it could be considered useful to finance pilot and demonstration projects in order to help to acquire start-up financing with the awareness that investments in R&TD and innovation could be at least comparable with the investments into hard infrastructures for the long term development of territories.

Special emphasis should be given even for local development to the organization of the system of production, collection and treatment of biomasses for direct hydrogen production. This technology appears extremely promising to provide even in short times hydrogen at a competitive level in terms of price and quantity.

The relation between science/technology with society/culture should be taken in strong consideration. Environmental policy, in particular, could be the meeting point.

Climate change by far is the metaphor of sustainable development as an expression of solidarity to future generations which is more and more considered as a compelling guiding principle of the EU.

An important role for the welfare of citizens is represented by the risk evaluation and assessment that have to become an integral part of citizens' culture, with the aim of introducing quantitative tools of decision taking and restricting the influence of emotional consideration.

To become competitive and play a leading role at world level, the European Community needs a strong and coherent international science and technology policy.

Strategic partnerships with ENPI (European Neighbourhood Policy Instrument) and third countries in selected fields of science and by engaging their best scientists to work in and with Europe should be pursued in spirit of an open cooperation.

To this regard the thematic areas indicated in the FP7 document (Chapter I. Cooperation) are to be understood as priorities but not exclusive of other items that could emerge in the field of international cooperation (with Neighbour and third countries).

Scientific research within international scientific cooperation has a high potential in the search of excellence with a definite structural effect of strong cohesion.

The Risk-Sharing Finance Facility (RSFF) from EIB to European investments funds with the involvement of national and regional banking system will be extremely important. The multiplying effect in "*cascade*" of risk sharing shall ensure the availability of venture capital for innovation and involve the local banking system into the ability of financial risk evaluation specifically for innovation.

To boost European competitiveness strategic partnership should be promoted between EUREKA and FP7 in synergy with JTIs, also to facilitate activities for high growth SMEs.

23.6.2006

OPINION OF THE COMMITTEE ON BUDGETS

for the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy

on the proposal for a Council decision on the specific programme: "Capacities" implementing the 7th Framework Programme (2007-2013) of the European Community for research, technological development and demonstration activities
(COM(2005)0443 – C6-0384/2005 – 2005/0188(CNS))

Draftswoman: Marilisa Xenogiannakopoulou

SHORT JUSTIFICATION

1. Main elements of the proposal

The proposal for the specific programmes is based on Title XVIII of the Treaty, Articles 163 to 173, and in particular Article 166(3) concerning implementation of the Framework Programme through specific programmes.

The Commission intends to set up an executive agency which will be entrusted with certain tasks required to implement the "Cooperation", "People" and "Capacities" specific programmes. This approach will also be taken for the implementation of the "Ideas" programme.

The Capacities specific programme will enhance research and innovation capacity throughout Europe. The programme is a combination of continuation and reinforcement of actions in previous framework programmes and in addition important novelties.

A major new element is the foreseen strategic approach to supporting the construction of new research infrastructure which will complement the continued support for optimal use of existing research infrastructure. The support for construction of new infrastructure will be implemented through a two-stage approach: preparatory phase and a construction phase. Building on the work by ESFRI (The European Strategy Forum on Research Infrastructure) on the development of a European roadmap for new research infrastructure, the Commission will identify priority projects to which a possible EC support could be given under the 7th

Framework Programme. For those projects, the Commission will act as a facilitator, in particular in facilitating financial engineering mechanisms for the construction phase, including facilitating access to EIB loans through the Risk Sharing Finance Facility. Annex 1 presents the ESFRI “list of opportunities”, which consists of concrete examples of new, large-scale research infrastructures, which the scientific community in Europe will need in the coming decade. The two schemes to support research for the benefit of SMEs and SME associations will be pursued with an increased budget to respond to the growing need of SMEs to outsource research.

Regions of Knowledge actions will build on the successful pilot action. The aim is to enable trans-national networks of regions to make full use of their research strengths, enable them to absorb new knowledge arising from research and to facilitate the emergence of “research-driven clusters” associating universities, research centres, enterprises and regional authorities.

An important new element is the action to unlocking the full research potential in the EU’s “convergence” and outermost regions. The realisation of the knowledge-based economy and society relies on strengthening the excellence of European research, but also on the better use of “untapped” high research potential which exists all over the EU. Actions will allow for the recruitment of researchers from other EU countries, the secondment of research and management staff, the organisation of evaluation facilities and the acquisition and development of research equipment. Such actions will complement the needs and opportunities for reinforcing the research capacities of existing and emerging centres of excellence in these regions which can be met by Structural Funds.

An important aim of the 7th Framework Programme is to build a strong and coherent international science and technology policy and activities in the Capacities programme will support this approach, in particular by helping to identify priorities for cooperation.

The coherent development of policies will put a greater emphasis on the co-ordination of national and regional research policies through a specific support scheme for trans-national policy cooperation initiatives by Member States and regions. This will reinforce the implementation of the open method of co-ordination to research policies and foster concerted or joint initiatives between groups of countries and regions in areas involving a strong trans-national dimension.

2. Recommendations by the draftswoman

For reasons of coherence, the draftswoman proposes the same set of amendments to all 7 specific research programmes.

A standard amendment refers to the multiannual financial framework and the need to respect the ceiling of heading 1 a.

The following proposed amendments include the idea of sound financial management and efficient implementation of the actions financed under the specific programme.

In order to improve the financial monitoring of Community financed research activities, the draftswoman considers that the Commission should inform the budgetary authority on the implementation of the specific programmes on a regular basis and provide prior information

whenever it intends to depart from the breakdown

AMENDMENTS

The Committee on Budgets calls on the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following amendments in its report:

Draft legislative resolution

Amendment 1 Paragraph 1 a (new)

- 1a. Considers that the indicative financial reference amount indicated in the legislative proposal must be compatible with the ceiling of heading 1a of the new multiannual financial framework (MFF) and points out that the annual amount will be decided within the annual budgetary procedure in accordance with the provisions of point 38 of the IIA of 17 May 2006;***

Justification

Standard amendment.

Proposal for a decision

Text proposed by the Commission¹

Amendments by Parliament

Amendment 2 Article 3, paragraph 1 a (new)

The Commission shall take all necessary steps to verify that the actions financed are carried out effectively and in compliance with the provisions of the Financial Regulation.

¹ OJ C 49, 28.2.2006, p. 37.

Amendment 3
Article 3, paragraph 1 b (new)

The overall administrative expenditure of the programme including internal and management expenditure for the Executive Agency should be proportional to the tasks provided for in the programme concerned and is subject to the decision of the budgetary and legislative authorities.

Justification

The appropriations allocated to the Executive Agency should comply with the provisions of the Code of conduct on the setting up of an Executive agency and Council Regulation N°58/2003 laying down the statute for executive agencies to be entrusted with certain tasks in the management of Community programs. This will ensure appropriate financing of the actions of the programme.

Amendment 4
Article 3, paragraph 1 c (new)

Budget appropriations shall be used in accordance with the principle of sound financial management, namely in accordance with the principles of economy, efficiency and effectiveness, as well as the principle of proportionality.

Amendment 5
Article 5 a (new)

Article 5a

The Commission shall provide prior information to the budgetary authority whenever it intends to depart from the breakdown of expenditure stated in the remarks and annex of the annual budget.

Justification

This procedure was introduced as a result of an agreement between the Committee on Budgets and the Commission in October 1999. The draftsman considers that the procedure should be maintained to improve the follow-up of the use of funds in the specific programmes of FP7.

Amendment 6

Article 8, paragraph 5 a (new)

5a. The evaluation report shall contain an assessment of the soundness of financial management. It shall contain an evaluation of the efficiency and regularity of the budgetary and economic management of the programme.

PROCEDURE

Title	Proposal for a Council decision on the specific programme: "Capacities" implementing the 7th Framework Programme (2007-2013) of the European Community for research, technological development and demonstration activities
References	COM(2005)0443 – C6-0384/2005 – 2005/0188(CNS)
Committee responsible	ITRE
Opinion by Date announced in plenary	BUDG 17.11.2005
Enhanced cooperation – date announced in plenary	
Drafts(wo)man Date appointed	Marilisa Xenogiannakopoulou 20.9.2004
Previous drafts(wo)man	
Discussed in committee	22.6.2006
Date adopted	22.6.2006
Result of final vote	+ : 16 - : 0 0 : 0
Members present for the final vote	Herbert Bösch, Simon Busuttil, Bárbara Dührkop Dührkop, Markus Ferber, Ingeborg Gräßle, Nathalie Griesbeck, Anne E. Jensen, Wiesław Stefan Kuc, Janusz Lewandowski, Vladimír Maňka, Antonis Samaras, Esko Seppänen, Nina Škottová, Helga Trüpel, Yannick Vaugrenard, Ralf Walter
Substitute(s) present for the final vote	
Substitute(s) under Rule 178(2) present for the final vote	
Comments (available in one language only)	...

21.3.2006

OPINION OF THE COMMITTEE ON CULTURE AND EDUCATION

for the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy

on the proposal for a Council decision on the Specific Programme: 'Capacities' implementing the seventh framework programme (2007-2013) of the European Community for research, technological development and demonstration activities
(COM(2005)0443 – C6-0384/2005 – 2005/0188(CNS))

Draftsman: Giovanni Berlinguer

SHORT JUSTIFICATION

1. Science and research have a crucial part to play if the knowledge-based society sought by Europe under the Lisbon Strategy is to be achieved.
2. Scientific research must be considered primarily in terms of greater knowledge. Research and knowledge, which are rooted in systems of education and training profoundly inspired by Europe's humanistic culture, must continue to be bound by values relating to civic participation and the development of society as a whole.
3. It is necessary to uphold a culture of science, knowledge and research particularly at Community level. The objective of European research policies should be to heighten awareness of the cultural aspect of research, which should not be considered solely in terms of competitiveness.
4. The situation in Europe in the field of research is giving cause for concern and failure to take corrective action could lead to a slowdown in economic growth.
5. The ground lost to other countries with an established technological lead (USA and Japan) and to the newly emerging countries (China and India) is continuing to increase; rationalisation is necessary to enable Europe to cooperate with other countries in the field of scientific research.
6. Scientific research and technological development are becoming increasingly important for the proper functioning of society.
7. Research has a fundamental role to play in government policy implementation and is one

of the most important factors in political decision-making. Policy options in the field of health, sustainable development, nuclear safety and biodiversity must necessarily be based on a solid body of scientific knowledge.

8. It is necessary to bring the framework programme and structural funds more closely into line with each other, avoiding conflicts of interest between types of funding earmarked for excellence and those earmarked for cohesion.
9. 'Science in society' must be given a significant place in the new framework programme in particular as part of the 'Youth and Science' initiatives.
10. The specific capacities programme based on six areas of activity could increase research and innovation capacity throughout Europe if the budget proposed by the Commission is adopted.

AMENDMENTS

The Committee on Culture and Education calls on the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following amendments in its report:

Text proposed by the Commission ¹	Amendments by Parliament
Amendment 1 Recital 4	
(4) The Framework Programme should complement the activities carried out in the Member States as well as other Community actions that are necessary for the overall strategic effort for the implementation of the Lisbon objectives, alongside in particular <i>with</i> those on structural funds, agriculture, education, training, competitiveness and innovation, industry, health, consumer protection, employment, energy, transport and environment.	(4) The Framework Programme should complement the activities carried out in the Member States as well as other Community actions that are necessary for the overall strategic effort for the implementation of the Lisbon objectives, alongside in particular <i>of</i> those on structural funds, agriculture, education, training, <i>culture</i> , competitiveness and innovation, industry, health, consumer protection, employment, energy, transport and environment.
Amendment 2 Recital 9	
(9) Research activities carried out within this programme should respect fundamental ethical principles, including those which are reflected in the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union,	(9) Research activities carried out within this programme should respect fundamental ethical principles, including those which are reflected in the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union <i>and reassert the civic and humanistic values of research, ensuring respect for ethnic and cultural diversity,</i>

¹ Not yet published in OJ.

Justification

The tension affecting research, sometimes fruitful and sometimes destructive, arising from the divide between the impressive progress made by research on the one hand and the requirements of society in economic, political and cultural terms on the other, is now greater than ever, requiring a pause for thought regarding the ethical issues and questions of cultural diversity facing the world of research.

Amendment 3
Recital 10

(10) The Framework Programme ***should*** contribute towards promoting sustainable development.

(10) The Framework Programme ***must*** contribute towards promoting sustainable development.

Amendment 4
Recital 11 a (new)

(11a) To simplify calls for proposals and reduce costs, the Commission should set up a database as a prerequisite for notifying participants in calls for proposals.

Justification

Easier access to the programme for European research institutions and interested parties in a call for proposals.

Amendment 5
Article 7, paragraph 3 a (new)

3a. The Commission shall ensure that the research results are evaluated and shall report on their contribution to a dynamic, knowledge-based society in Europe.

Justification

The Commission has to show that the programme's goal of a dynamic, knowledge-based

society in Europe has actually been achieved.

Amendment 6
Article 8, paragraph 5

5. The Commission shall regularly inform the Committee of the overall progress of the implementation of the Specific Programme, and shall provide it with information about all RTD actions funded under this programme.

5. The Commission shall regularly inform the Committee ***and the European Parliament's committee responsible*** of the overall progress of the implementation of the Specific Programme, and shall provide it with information about all RTD actions funded under this programme.

Justification

The Commission is presenting provisions for a comitology procedure in the context of cooperation with the Council here. It is appropriate to inform the other arm of the budgetary authority, as well, of the implementation of the programme.

Amendment 7
Article 8, paragraph 5 a (new)

5a. The Commission shall submit this Decision and a report on the implementation of the Specific Programme to the competent bodies for review in sufficient time to ensure that the procedure for modifying this Decision can be completed by the end of 2010.

Justification

The review of the decision during its projected term (mid-term review) makes it possible, in the context of an evaluation and, possibly, corrective action, to react to problems with implementation or to other developments. Owing to the running-in phase of the programme which exists in practice, the review takes place a year after the mid-point of the period covered by the programme. This amendment is intended to make the evaluation more reliable.

Amendment 8
Annex I, section 1, Objective

Optimising the use and development of the best research infrastructures existing in Europe, and helping to create in all fields of science and technology new research

Optimising the use and development of the best research infrastructures existing in Europe, and helping to create in all fields of science and technology new research

infrastructures *of pan-European interest (or major upgrades to existing ones) needed by the European scientific community to remain at the forefront of the advancement of research, and able to help industry to strengthen its base of knowledge and its technological know how.*

infrastructures, *but only after an in-depth independent assessment regarding upgrades to existing ones. Such infrastructures are necessary, particularly in the less favoured regions of the Union, to increase knowledge and the technological development of society.*

Amendment 9

Annex I, section 2, Approach, paragraph 1

SMEs are *at the core of European industry. They should be* a key component of the innovation system and in the chain of transformation of knowledge into new products, processes and services. Faced with *an* increasing competition in the internal market and globally, European SMEs need to increase their knowledge and research intensity, expand geographically their business activities and internationalize their knowledge networks. All Member States have actions relevant to SMEs, but often they do not encourage and support trans-national research cooperation and technology transfer. Actions at EU level are necessary to complement and enhance the impact of actions undertaken at national and regional level.

SMEs are a key component of the innovation system and in the chain of transformation of knowledge into new products, processes and services. Faced with increasing competition in the internal market and globally, European SMEs need to increase their knowledge and research intensity, expand geographically their business activities and internationalize their knowledge networks. All Member States have actions relevant to SMEs, but often they do not encourage and support trans-national research cooperation and technology transfer. Actions at EU level are necessary to complement and enhance the impact of actions undertaken at national and regional level.

Amendment 10

Annex I, section 2, Approach, paragraph 3

In addition to these specific actions, the participation of SMEs across the Framework Programme will be encouraged and facilitated. The research needs and potential

In addition to these specific actions, the participation of SMEs across the Framework Programme will be encouraged and facilitated. *In particular administrative*

of SMEs are duly taken into account in developing the content of the thematic areas of the “co-operation” programme, which will be implemented through projects of different sizes and scope depending on the field and topic.

procedures regarding SMEs will be made simpler and clearer and costs will be reduced for SMEs benefiting under the framework programme. The research needs and potential of SMEs are duly taken into account in developing the content of the thematic areas of the “cooperation” programme, which will be implemented through projects of different sizes and scope depending on the field and topic.

Amendment 11
Annex I, section 3, Objectives

Strengthening the research potential of European regions, in particular by encouraging and supporting the development, across Europe, of regional “research-driven clusters” associating regional authorities, universities, research centres, enterprises and other relevant stakeholders.

Strengthening the research potential of European regions, in particular by encouraging and supporting the development, across Europe, of regional “research-driven clusters” associating regional authorities, universities, research centres, enterprises and other relevant stakeholders. ***Regions with high levels of know-how must assume an increasingly prominent role in the field of research and innovation so as achieve greater cohesion.***

Amendment 12
Annex I, section 3, Objectives, paragraph 1a (new)

Encouraging territorialisation of research policies while bringing them into line with the specific socio-economic context.

Amendment 13
Annex I, section 3, Activities, paragraph 3

“Mentoring” of regions with a less developed research profile by highly developed ones based on *R&D focused* cluster building. Transnational regional consortia will mobilise and associate research actors in academia, industry and government to deliver “guidance” solutions with and for technologically less developed regions.

“Mentoring” of regions with a less developed research profile by highly developed ones based on *R&D-focused* cluster building. Transnational regional consortia will mobilise and associate research actors in academia, industry and government to deliver “guidance” solutions with and for technologically less developed regions. ***Mentoring arrangements must include measures to achieve closer collaboration with the scientific communities of the new Member States.***

Amendment 14
Annex I, section 3, Activities, paragraph 5

Support will also be provided to activities to promote systematic mutual information exchange as well as interactions between similar projects ***and where appropriate***, with actions of other relevant Community programmes ***(e.g. analysis and synthesis workshops, round-tables, publications)***.

Support will also be provided to ***all*** activities to promote systematic mutual information exchange as well as interactions between similar projects and actions of other relevant Community programmes. ***Analysis and synthesis workshops and round tables will accordingly be organised and publications and Internet sites promoted to ensure wider dissemination of information.***

Amendment 15
Annex I, section 5, Objective, paragraph 1a (new)

Coordinate prognosis, rapid scientific innovation, early detection in the field of science and technology, socio-economic assessment and scientific and technological choice evaluation at national and European level.

Amendment 16
Annex I, section 5, Approach, paragraph 3

To achieve this aim, it is imperative that a social and cultural environment conducive to successful and exploitable research is created. This means that legitimate societal concerns and needs are taken on board, entailing an enhanced democratic debate with a more engaged and informed public, and better conditions for collective choices on scientific issues. It should also establish a climate favourable to scientific vocations, a new surge of research investments and the subsequent dissemination of knowledge upon which the Lisbon strategy is built.

To achieve this aim, it is imperative that a social and cultural environment conducive to successful and exploitable research is created. This means that legitimate societal concerns and needs are taken on board, entailing an enhanced democratic debate with a more engaged and informed public, and better conditions for collective choices on scientific issues. It should also establish a climate favourable to scientific vocations, a new surge of research investments and the subsequent dissemination of knowledge upon which the Lisbon strategy is built. ***It is necessary for issues relating to 'science and society' (such as the relationship between technology, employment and the workplace or major choices in the field of energy, the environment or health) to acquire an ever greater European dimension.***

Amendment 17
Annex I, section 5, Approach, paragraph 6, indent 4a (new)

- the high costs of scientific and academic publications act as a barrier to scientific progress,

Amendment 18
Annex I, section 5, Approach, paragraph 7, indent 8

– renew science communication, favouring modern means to achieve higher impact, helping scientists to work closely with media professionals.

– renew science communication, favouring modern means to achieve higher impact, helping scientists to work closely with media professionals, ***particularly in the field of new information and communications technologies.***

Amendment 19
Annex I, section 5, Second action line, Young people and science

Activities will be designed to attract more people into scientific careers, foster links across generations, **and** raise the level of scientific literacy generally. European exchanges and cooperation will concentrate on science teaching methods adapted to young audiences, the support to science teachers (concepts, materials), developing the linkages between schools and professional life. In addition, events with a broad European scope may be supported which bring together distinguished scientists – as “role models” – and aspiring young scientists. Underpinning research will be addressed, taking into account social contexts and cultural values. Three aspects have been retained:

Activities will be designed to attract more people into scientific careers, foster links across generations, raise the level of scientific literacy generally **and above all analyse the factors which deter young people from opting for a career in the field of science and technology**. European exchanges and cooperation will concentrate on science teaching methods adapted to young audiences, the support to science teachers (concepts, materials), developing the linkages between schools and professional life. In addition, events with a broad European scope may be supported which bring together distinguished scientists – as “role models” – and aspiring young scientists. Underpinning research will be addressed, taking into account social contexts and cultural values. Three aspects have been retained:

Justification

In recent years, the number of young people in Europe opting for scientific subjects has been declining at the very time when Europe needs to increase its scientific and technological capacity. This is aggravated by the fact that European universities do not have sufficient scientific staff to replace lecturers following their retirement and fewer scientific and technological graduates are finding research posts. In order to encourage young people to embark on a career in the field of science and technology, it is necessary to understand the factors currently deterring them from so doing.

Amendment 20

Annex I, section 5, Second action line, Young people and science, indent 3a (new)

– step up the teaching of science subjects in the European Union at every level of the national curricula;

Justification

According to Eurobarometer surveys, young people in Europe are generally well disposed towards science and technology, the relevant findings being well able to stand comparison with those regarding previous generations. The waning interest in scientific disciplines appears to be due to the way in which science is taught at school, the complexity of the subject and the apparent lack of attractive career prospects. It is therefore necessary to step up the teaching of scientific subjects in the European Union at every level of the national

curricula.

Amendment 21

Annex I, section 5, Second action line, Young people and science, indent 3b (new)

– funding of competitions for secondary school, undergraduate and graduate students.

Justification

To provide an incentive for young people to opt for scientific careers, it is necessary to promote and finance annual competitions for secondary school, undergraduate and graduate students.

Amendment 22

Annex I, section 5, Third action line, indent 5

– Promotion of excellent transnational research and science communication by the means of popular *Prizes*

– Promotion of excellent transnational research and science communication by means of popular *prizes and the introduction of a Week for Scientific Culture*

Justification

It is important to establish a Week for Scientific Culture in all the Member States to promote greater awareness of scientific disciplines and establish lines of communication between schools, universities, (public and private) research bodies and companies.

Amendment 23

Annex I, section 5, Third action line a (new)

Third action line a: Multilingualism

Initiatives under the framework programme will seek to underpin research and development regarding information society technologies in the linguistic field and promote science and technology in the area of multilingualism.

PROCEDURE

Title	Proposal for a Council decision on the Specific Programme: 'Capacities' implementing the seventh framework programme (2007-2013) of the European Community for research, technological development and demonstration activities
References	COM(2005)0443 – C-6 0384/2005 – 2005/0188(CNS)
Committee responsible	ITRE
Opinion by Date announced in plenary	CULT 17.11.2005
Enhanced cooperation – date announced in plenary	
Drafts(wo)man Date appointed	Giovanni Berlinguer 7.10.2005
Previous drafts(wo)man	
Discussed in committee	23.1.2006 23.2.2006
Date adopted	21.3.2006
Result of final vote	+: 25 –: 1 0: 0
Members present for the final vote	Maria Badia I Cutchet, Christopher Beazley, Ivo Belet, Giovanni Berlinguer, Guy Bono, Marie-Hélène Descamps, Claire Gibault, Vasco Graça Moura, Lissy Gröner, Luis Herrero-Tejedor, Ruth Hieronymi, Manolis Mavrommatis, Marianne Mikko, Ljudmila Novak, Doris Pack, Rolandas Pavilionis, Zdzisław Zbigniew Podkański, Christa Prets, Karin Resetarits, Nikolaos Sifunakis, Helga Trüpel, Henri Weber, Thomas Wise
Substitute(s) present for the final vote	Gyula Hegyi, Mario Mauro, Jaroslav Zvěřina
Substitute(s) under Rule 178(2) present for the final vote	
Comments (available in one language only)	...

PROCEDURE

Title	Proposal for a Council decision on the Specific Programme: "Capacities" implementing the 7th Framework Programme (2007-2013) of the European Community for research, technological development and demonstration activities				
References	COM(2005)0443 – C6-0384/2006 – 2005/0188(CNS)				
Date of consulting Parliament	14.11.2005				
Committee responsible Date announced in plenary	ITRE 17.11.2005				
Committee(s) asked for opinion(s) Date announced in plenary	BUDG 17.11.2005	EMPL 17.11.2005	CULT 17.11.2005		
Not delivering opinion(s) Date of decision	EMPL 5.10.2005				
Enhanced cooperation Date announced in plenary					
Rapporteur(s) Date appointed	Vittorio Prodi 5.10.2005				
Previous rapporteur(s)					
Simplified procedure – date of decision					
Legal basis disputed Date of JURI opinion					
Financial endowment amended Date of BUDG opinion					
Parliament to consult European Economic and Social Committee – date decided in plenary					
Parliament to consult Committee of the Regions – date decided in plenary					
Discussed in committee	31.1.2006	21.2.2006	4.5.2006	30.5.02006	19.6.2006
	12.9.2006				
Date adopted	10.10.2006				
Result of final vote	+: 33 –: 1 0: 0				
Members present for the final vote	Joan Calabuig Rull, Giles Chichester, Lena Ek, Adam Gierek, Norbert Glante, András Gyürk, Fiona Hall, David Hammerstein Mintz, Rebecca Harms, Ján Hudacký, Romana Jordan Cizelj, Werner Langen, Anne Laperrouze, Pia Elda Locatelli, Nils Lundgren, Eugenijus Maldeikis, Eluned Morgan, Reino Paasilinna, Miloslav Ransdorf, Herbert Reul, Mechtild Rothe, Paul Rübig, Britta Thomsen, Catherine Trautmann, Claude Turmes, Nikolaos Vakalis				
Substitute(s) present for the final vote	Alexander Alvaro, Jan Christian Ehler, Peter Liese, Lambert van Nistelrooij, Francisca Pleguezuelos Aguilar, Vittorio Prodi, Esko Seppänen				
Substitute(s) under Rule 178(2) present for the final vote	Rosa Miguélez Ramos				

Date tabled	20.10.2006
Comments (available in one language only)	...