



2018/0067(NLE)

2.5.2018

DRAFT RECOMMENDATION

on the proposal for a Council decision on the extension of the Agreement for scientific and technological cooperation between the European Union and the Government of the United States of America
(COM(2018)0141 – C8-xxxx/xxxx – 2018/0067(NLE))

Committee on Industry, Research and Energy

Rapporteur: Rolandas Paksas

Symbols for procedures

- * Consultation procedure
- *** Consent procedure
- ***I Ordinary legislative procedure (first reading)
- ***II Ordinary legislative procedure (second reading)
- ***III Ordinary legislative procedure (third reading)

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

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DRAFT EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION

on the proposal for a Council decision on the extension of the Agreement for scientific and technological cooperation between the European Union and the Government of the United States of America

(COM(2018)0141 – C8-xxxx/xxxx – 2018/0067(NLE))

(Consent)

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the proposal for a Council decision (COM(2018)0141),
 - having regard to Council Decision 98/591/EC of 13 October 1998 concerning the conclusion of the Agreement for scientific and technological cooperation between the European Community and the Government of the United States of America¹,
 - having regard to the request for consent submitted by the Council in accordance with Articles 186 and Article 218(6), second subparagraph, point (a) (v), of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (C8-xxxx/xxxx),
 - having regard to Rule 99(1) and (4), and Rule 108(7) of its Rules of Procedure,
 - having regard to the recommendation of the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy (A8-0000/2018),
1. Gives its consent to the extension of the agreement;
 2. Instructs its President to forward its position to the Council, the Commission and the governments and parliaments of the Member States and of the United States of America.

¹ OJ L 284 , 22.10.1998, p. 35.

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

The strategic partnership for research between the European Union and the United States of America is in force since 1998. The 'Agreement for scientific and technological cooperation between the European Community and the Government of the United States of America' ('the Agreement') was signed on 5 December 1997 and entered into force on 14 October 1998. It has been renewed three times since then, in 2003, 2008 and 2013.

Article 12(b) of the Agreement stipulates that it “is concluded for an initial period of five years. Subject to review by the Parties in the final year of each successive period, the Agreement may be extended with possible amendments, thereafter for additional periods of five years by mutual written agreement between the Parties”. The current Agreement expires on 14 October 2018.

At the present time the main instrument for cooperation is the EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation but it's important to note that the Agreement does not preclude any future arrangement of the US in the next Framework Programme for Research & Innovation. Indeed, the Agreement is there to provide a framework for facilitating cooperation between the EU and the US in common Science & Technology (S&T) priority areas leading to mutual benefits, not to give automatic access to specific programmes.

The EU's relationship with the US in Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) is stronger than with any other country outside Europe. It's a reflection of the special long term relation that has developed throughout the decades past and that should continue to deepen in the future. The US is by a long way the most active country in Horizon 2020 by the amounts of mutual research and development (R&D) investment, flows of scientists, volumes of cooperative activities and the number of co-authored publications and patents. Increased cooperation between both parties can lead to significant economic growth, job creation and the improvement of quality of life for citizens on both sides of the Atlantic. Global challenges require global joint solutions it is therefore important that the EU and the US work closely together to find them.

For the reasons stated above, the rapporteur believes that it's in the EU's interest to extend the 'Agreement for scientific and technological cooperation between the European Community and the Government of the United States of America' for a new period of five years.