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26 October 1999

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## **REPORT**

on the proposal for a Council decision concluding the Agreement for scientific and technological cooperation between the European Community and the Argentine Republic  
(COM(1999) 292 – C5-0040/1999-1999/0125(CNS))

Committee on Industry, External Trade, Research and Energy

Rapporteur: Rolf Linkohr

### *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.)

### *Abbreviations for committees*

- I. AFET: Committee on Foreign Affairs, Human Rights, Common Security and Defence Policy
- II. BUDG: Committee on Budgets
- III. CONT: Committee on Budgetary Control
- IV. LIBE: Committee on Citizens' Freedoms and Rights, Justice and Home Affairs
- V. ECON: Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs
- VI. JURI: Committee on Legal Affairs and the Internal Market
- VII. INDU: Committee on Industry, External Trade, Research and Energy
- VIII. EMPL: Committee on Employment and Social Affairs
- IX. ENVI: Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Policy
- X. AGRI: Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development
- XI. PECH: Committee on Fisheries
- XII. REGI: Committee on Regional Policy, Transport and Tourism
- XIII. CULT: Committee on Culture, Youth, Education, the Media and Sport
- XIV. DEVE: Committee on Development and Cooperation
- XV. AFCO: Committee on Constitutional Affairs
- XVI. FEMM: Committee on Women's Rights and Equal Opportunities
- XVII. PETI: Committee on Petitions

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## Procedural page

By letter of 2 July 1999 the Council consulted Parliament, pursuant to Article 300(3)(1) of the EC Treaty, on the proposal for a Council decision concluding the Agreement for scientific and technological cooperation between the European Community and the Argentine Republic.

At the sitting of 23 July 1999, the President of Parliament announced that he had referred the proposal to the Committee on Industry, External Trade, Research and Energy as the committee responsible and the Committee on Budgets and on 13 September 1999 the Committee on Foreign Affairs, Human Rights, Common Security and Defence Policy for their opinions.

At its meeting of 21 September 1999 the Committee on Industry, External Trade, Research and Energy appointed Mr Linkohr rapporteur.

It considered the draft report at its meetings of 21 September, 14 October and 26 October 1999.

At the last meeting it adopted the draft legislative resolution unanimously.

The following were present for the vote: Westendorp y Cabeza, chairman; Mombaur (vice-chairman); Linkohr, rapporteur; Baltas, Bodrato, Carlsson (for Wijkman), Carraro, Chichester, Corbey (for Glante), Damião (for Caudron), Foster (for Harbour), Gahrton (for Lucas), Lamassoure, Liese (for Langen), Maes, McNally, Montfort, Murphy, Niebler, O'Toole (for Read), Pohjamo (for Thors), Plooij-van Gorsel, Purvis, Paasilinna, Quisthoudt-Rowohl, Raschhofer, Schröder I., Schwaiger, Valdivielso de Cué and Vidal Quadras Roca (for Ferrer i Casals).

The opinions of the Committee on Committee on Foreign Affairs, Human Rights, Common Security and Defence Policy and the Committee on Budgets are attached.

The report was tabled on 26 October 1999.

## DRAFT LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION

**European Parliament legislative resolution on the proposal for a Council decision concluding the Agreement for scientific and technological cooperation between the European Community and the Argentine Republic (COM(1999) 292 – C5-0040/1999 – 1999/0125(CNS))**

**(Consultation procedure)**

*The European Parliament,*

- having regard to the proposal for a Council decision (COM(1999) 292)<sup>1</sup>, - 1999/0125(CNS)),
  - having regard to Article 170 of the EC Treaty,
  - having been consulted by the Council, pursuant to Article 300(3)(1) of the EC Treaty (C5-0040/1999),
  - having regard to Rule 97(7) of the Rules of Procedure,
  - having regard to the report of the Committee on Industry, External Trade, Research and Energy and the opinions of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, Human Rights, Common Security and Defence Policy, and the Committee on Budgets (A5-0047/1999),
1. Approves conclusion of the Agreement;
  2. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission and the governments and parliaments of the Member States and of the Argentine Republic.

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<sup>1</sup> OJ C 274, 28.9.1999, p. 1.

## **EXPLANATORY STATEMENT**

### **Introduction**

This first Agreement on scientific and technological cooperation between the European Community and the Argentine Republic marks the first occasion on which a non-European state from the Latin American region has entered into a full association with the Fifth Community Framework Programme for research, technological development and demonstration<sup>2</sup>. However, EU-Argentinean cooperation on RDT began earlier, within the framework of the INCO horizontal programme (a specific research, technological development and demonstration programme to consolidate the international role of Community research (1998-2002)) under the Fourth RDT Framework Programme.

### **Research cooperation with the Argentine Republic**

Argentina assigns over 0.5% of its GDP to research and technological development. Since the beginning of the decade, it has been making a major effort to transform the science and technology sector; in 1989, total R&D spending was only 0.3% of the GDP. Between 1996 and 1999 major national structural reforms were made in the field of science and technology. The major involvement of the private sector in R&D should also be highlighted, which has increased dramatically over the last ten years, from 22% in 1989 to 36% in 1998.

Argentina's major drive for investment in R&D also includes the setting up of the Federal Council on Science and Technology in 1997 and the second Multiannual National Science and Technology Plan (1999-2001). Argentina was the country elected as the first holder of the chair of the Inter-American Science and Technology Committee.

With regard to bilateral international R&D cooperation, Argentina currently has agreements with eleven countries. It participates in multilateral R&D programmes and initiatives with UNESCO, OEA, CYTED, ONUDI and ALADI. What should be stressed above all, however, is the country's significance in the field of regional cooperation, and specifically within the framework of the EU's agreements with MERCOSUR (Title III – Article 15) (COM(95) 504 final), which is currently under negotiation.

The National Science and Technology Plan provides for R&D investment in production sectors – agri-foods, manufacturing, energy, environment, clean technology, microelectronic applications and innovation - and in social sectors – health, education, public security, gender studies (equal opportunities) - and, finally in specific areas such as biotechnology, marine resources, climate change, biodiversity, natural resources, the environment and regional policy.

With regard to Argentina's involvement in the Community's INCO programme under the Fourth RDT Framework Programme (see table below), Argentina took part in projects totalling euro 17 million, whose percentage breakdown is 34% on natural resources, 23% on agriculture, 20% on health, 15% on technological communication and 8% on technological information.

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<sup>2</sup> See Doc A4-0250/96.

ARGENTINIAN INVOLVEMENT IN INCO PROGRAMME PROJECTS (FOURTH RDT FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME) (Total amount per project, including the Argentinean contribution, in millions of euros)

<u>Discipline or field</u>	<u>Number of projects</u>	<u>Total in euro (millions)</u>
Research on Biology of diseases	5	<b>2.0</b>
Crop Production	3	<b>1.6</b>
Basic Natural Resources	5	<b>2.2</b>
Research on Ecosystem	3	<b>2.3</b>
Policy Research	2	<b>1.4</b>
Research on tools against predominant diseases	2	<b>0.8</b>
Research on health system	1	<b>0.5</b>
Processing and Use	1	<b>0.8</b>
Software Technologies	1	<b>0.4</b>
Computer Integrated Manufacturing	1	<b>0.3</b>
Information Society	2	<b>1.2</b>
Agriculture (plant-health)	2	<b>1.2</b>
OGM	1	<b>0.4</b>
Public health	1	<b>0.3</b>
Energy	2	<b>1.1</b>
Ecosystem	3	<b>1.5</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>EUR 18 million</b>

**(Exact figure 17.896 million)**

**Source: Commission (DG XII)**

## **Assessment of the proposal for an agreement**

Both parties take a very positive view of cooperation, and in view of the adoption and entry into force of the Fifth RTD Framework Programme (1998-2000), there is every reason to sign a cooperation agreement with the Argentine Republic for the 1998-2000 period.

Given that talks will shortly begin between the EU and Latin America on implementing the results of the Rio de Janeiro June 1999 EU-Latin America Summit, at which one of the major areas dealt with was scientific and technological cooperation in the context of the forthcoming WTO millennium round negotiations due to formally open in Seattle in December 1999, your rapporteur deems the conclusion of this Agreement both opportune and urgent. The Agreement's contents are similar to those of other agreements, but are of quite particular significance given Argentina's status as one of the most heavily industrialised and experienced of the developing countries, and the fact that the Agreement will give it access to the thematic programmes of the Fifth RDT Framework Programme and hence, to Community research networks and high technology.

## **CONCLUSIONS**

The rapporteur would draw attention to the following points:

- in future negotiations, the Commission should inform Parliament fully and from the very outset of every step and stage of the negotiations;
- Argentina should also participate as actively as possible in the informal information networks and in the assessment of the Fifth RDT Framework Programme;
- given the undertakings made at Kyoto, and the Community's development cooperation strategy on environmental protection, priority should be given to involving Argentina in the specific energy and environment programme within the Fifth Framework Programme, with particular attention to renewable energies;
- the activities covered by this agreement should be reviewed in the light of recent developments in new information society technology, and priority should be given to projects concerning this, and particularly electronic trade;
- the participation of women in Argentina in scientific and technological programmes should be examined, and proposals made with a view to involving more women in the activities to be carried out within the framework of the cooperation agreement;
- regular contacts should be established between the EP and the Argentine Parliament, with a view to supporting and encouraging cooperation on RDT;
- with a view to supporting scientific and technological cooperation throughout Latin America, and expediting the negotiation of the agreement with Mercosur, talks with a

view to signing similar agreements with other countries within the region should be stepped up.

## OPINION

(Rule 162 of the Rules of Procedure)

for the Committee on Industry, External Trade, Research and Energy

on the proposal for a Council decision concluding the Agreement for scientific and technological cooperation between the European Community and the Argentine Republic (COM(1999) 292 – C5-0040/1999 – 1999/0125(CNS)) (Report by Mr Linkohr)

Committee on Foreign Affairs, Human Rights, Common Security and Defence Policy

Letter from the committee chairman to Mr Carlos Westendorp y Cabeza, chairman of the Committee on Industry, External Trade, Research and Energy

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Brussels, 13 October 1999

Dear Mr Westendorp,

The Committee on Industry, External Trade, Research and Energy considered the above subject at its meeting of 11 October 1999<sup>3</sup>.

At the latter meeting, it adopted the following conclusions:

On 20 September 1999 the European Community and Argentina signed an Agreement for scientific and technological cooperation. Similar to those already signed by the Union with Israel and Canada, the agreement enables Argentinean undertakings and bodies to take part in public tenders organised as part of the First Activity of the EU's Fifth Framework Programme of Research and Technology Development adopted in December 1998.

The first activity of the Framework Programme covers a wide range of areas, from transport to astrophysics, including marine sciences. The agreement is for an initial period of five years and may be tacitly renewed after evaluation during the penultimate year of each successive five-year period.

The Committee on Foreign Affairs welcomes the signing of this agreement on scientific and technological cooperation with a Latin American country and hopes that in future other similar agreements can be concluded with countries from that region.

Agreements of this kind give shape and substance to the decisions adopted at the EU-Latin America Summit held in June, the final declaration of which placed particular emphasis on the need to promote and develop scientific cooperation between these two major regions. This

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<sup>3</sup> The following were present for the vote: Newton Dunn, second vice-chairman and acting chairman, Belder, Caudron (for Nair), Couteaux (for Marchiani), Fabra Vallés, García-Margallo (for Galeote Quecedo), Gomolka, Haarder, Hoff, Korakas, Korhola (for Carlsson), Malmström (for Väyrynen), Marset Campos, Napoletano, Obiols, Salafranca, Santer, Schori, Stenzel and Swoboda.

declaration merely repeated the call made to Heads of State and Government by the parliaments taking part in the Fourteenth EU-Latin America Interparliamentary Conference held in Brussels on 16-18 March 1999.

Accordingly, this committee can only express its firm approval of the agreement in question.

Yours sincerely,

Elmar BROK

## OPINION

(Rule 162 of the Rules of Procedure)

for the Committee on Industry, External Trade, Research and Energy

on the proposal for a Council Decision concluding the Agreement for scientific and technological cooperation between the European Community and the Argentine Republic (COM(1999)292 – C5-0040/1999 – 1999/0125(CNS)) (report by Mr Rolf Linkohr)

Committee on Budgets

Letter from the committee chairman to Mr Carlos Westendorp y Cabeza, chairman of the Committee on Industry, External Trade, Research and Energy

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Brussels, 19 October 1999

Dear Mr Westendorp y Cabeza,

The Committee on Budgets considered the above subject at its meeting of 19 October 1999

At this meeting it adopted the following conclusions unanimously<sup>4</sup>.

On 12 March 1999 an agreement for scientific and technical cooperation between Argentina and the European Community was signed by which it is proposed that Argentina becomes associated to the specific programmes of the RTD Framework programme. As the cooperation which already takes place was considered very satisfactory by both sides it is now proposed to give that cooperation the framework of a formal agreement. The Commission now proposes to the Council to conclude the agreement.

The agreement foresees the participation of Argentinian research entities in Community programmes. Research entities established in the Community can participate in Argentinian research projects. Both parties shall cover their own costs.

As usual cooperation is to be achieved by participation in each other's research activities, joint research activities, visits and exchanges of research workers, participation of experts in seminars, and missions of officials and experts

For the implementation of the new operations covered by the extension of the agreement the Commission estimates the following annual costs for the 5 year duration of the agreement.

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<sup>4</sup> The following were present for the vote: Wynn, chairman; Dührkop Dührkop and Pissicchio, vice-chairmen; Averof, Böge, Bösch (for Guy-Quint), Bourlanges, Buitenweg, Casaca, Colom I Naval, Costa Neves, Deprez (for Mastella), Dover, Fabra Valles (for Elles), Färm, Ferber, Garriga Polledo, Gill, Hannan (for McMillan-Scott), Haug, Iivari (for Kuckelkorn), Ilgenfritz, Jensen, Krehl, Laschet, McCartin, Mulder, Naranjo Escobar, Ortuondo Larrea (for Onesta), Pittella, Puerta (for Wurtz, pursuant to Rule 153(2)), Rühle, Sbarbati, Souladakis (for Martin), Stenmarck, Virrankoski and Walter.

Preparatory activities, review of cooperation	€ 50.000
(meetings of the joint science and technology cooperation committee, missions of officials and experts in Argentina)	
Scientific and technical workshop/meetings	
Total costs	€ 110.000

The Commission does not request additional posts for the management of the Agreement and the usual financial controls are in place. The Committee on Budgets does not see any budgetary impediments to the Agreement and can approve the amount proposed which comes under the overall envelope agreed for the Fifth Framework Programme, to be taken from the relevant lines in B6-6. However, as it has done before, it requests that the Commission mention in its annual reporting on the Fifth Framework Programme how much the Argentinian partners contribute financially to these research. Moreover, it suggests that the Court of Auditors might usefully carry out a global investigation of the benefits and cost-effectiveness of these kinds of international cooperation activities under the Programme. In particular, the Committee feels it would be useful to compare how far the activities and missions involve actual scientists or researchers as opposed to research administrators.

Yours sincerely,

Terence WYNN