

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2004



2009

Session document

FINAL
A6-0360/2006

16.10.2006

REPORT

on the proposal for a Council decision on the specific programme 'People' implementing the 7th Framework Programme (2007-2013) of the European Community for research, technological development and demonstration activities

(COM(2005)0442 – C6-0383/2005 – 2005/0187(CNS))

Committee on Industry, Research and Energy

Rapporteur: Umberto Pirilli

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 ‘People’ implementing the 7th Framework Programme (2007-2013) of the European Community for research, technological development and demonstration activities (COM(2005)0442 – C6-0383/2005 – 2005/0187(CNS))

(Consultation procedure)

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the Commission proposal to the Council (COM(2005)0442)¹,
 - having regard to Article 166 of the EC Treaty, pursuant to which the Council consulted Parliament (C6-0383/2005),
 - 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, the Committee on Culture and Education, the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs and the Committee on Women’s Rights and Gender Equality (A6-0360/2006),
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 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.

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 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, ***lifelong*** training, competitiveness and innovation, ***employment, equal opportunities and equal treatment, appropriate working conditions***, industry, health, consumer protection, employment, energy, transport and environment.

Justification

Lifelong training is essential, especially in research careers, given the growing tendency to shed researchers in the middle of their careers under early or compulsory retirement schemes (see COM(2003)0436).

Ensuring appropriate working conditions, with everything that entails is one of the most important conditions for promoting research.

Equal opportunities and equal treatment in the field of employment is a fundamental social principle which must be applied in order to achieve the Lisbon objectives, towards which the framework programme must contribute.

Amendment 2
Recital 7

(7) The international dimension is a fundamental component of human resources in research and development in Europe. As provided for under Article 170 of the Treaty, this specific programme is open to the participation of countries having concluded the necessary agreements to this effect, and is also open on the project level, and on the basis of mutual benefit, to the participation of entities from third countries

(7) International cooperation and the international experience acquired by researchers are fundamentally important to research and development in Europe. As provided for under Article 170 of the Treaty, this specific programme is open to the participation of countries having concluded the necessary agreements to this effect, and is also open on the project level, and on the basis of mutual benefit, to the participation

and of international organisations for scientific cooperation. Moreover, all actions, as well as dedicated actions in this specific programme are open to participation of individual researchers from third countries.

of entities from third countries and of international organisations for scientific cooperation. Moreover, all actions, as well as dedicated actions in this specific programme, are open to *the* participation, ***without any form of discrimination***, of individual researchers from third countries ***and of European researchers living abroad***. ***To that end, efforts should be made to speed up the mutual recognition of professional qualifications acquired in third countries. The adoption of a policy providing incentives should not be centred only on the remuneration of researchers but also on their working conditions.***

Justification

It is necessary to attract 'European brains' who left Europe in order to acquire specialist expertise and have stayed on to do research in the countries where they lived while they were studying.

Participation in the programme should not be subject to discrimination. Moreover, in order to attract researchers from abroad, mutual recognition of professional qualifications acquired in third countries should be speeded up in order to avoid using the human potential in research and technology in Europe and obstructing the free movement of researchers within the Community.

Experience thus far shows that researchers, in particular, wish to relocate only in circumstances which meet certain fundamental principles, such as their quality of life and the quality of their work.

Amendment 3

Recital 8

(8) 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.

(8) 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, ***such as the integrity of the person, equality between men and women and the possibility of reconciling family and professional life, and should reconfirm the civic and humanistic value of research, while respecting ethical and cultural diversity.***

Justification

The tension affecting the research sector, sometimes fruitful and sometimes destructive, arising from 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 4
Recital 9

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

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

Amendment 5
Recital 9 a (new)

(9a) The Framework Programme should encourage people to study science, above all by persuading women to go into science and technology.

Justification

It is important to take action at the different levels of research (academic study, career, etc) in order to achieve a real policy of equal access and equal opportunity in the research sector. This amendment is also in line with the new Recital 13a proposed by the draftsman.

Amendment 6
Recital 10 a (new)

(10a) 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 by Françoise Grossetête

Amendment 7

Recital 11

(11) Appropriate measures should also be taken to prevent irregularities and fraud and the necessary steps should be taken to recover funds lost, wrongly paid or incorrectly used in accordance with Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002 of 25 June 2002 on the Financial Regulation applicable to the general budget of the European Communities, Commission Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 2342/2002 of 23 December 2002 laying down detailed rules for implementation of the Financial Regulation and any future amendments. Council Regulations (EC, Euratom) No 2988/95 of 18 December 1995 on the protection of the European Communities' financial interests, (Euratom, EC) No 2185/96 of 11 November 1996 concerning on-the-spot checks and inspections carried out by the Commission in order to protect the European Communities' financial interests against fraud and other irregularities and Regulation (EC) No 1074/1999 of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning investigations conducted by the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) .

(11) Appropriate measures should also be taken *to monitor firstly the effectiveness of funding provided and secondly the effectiveness of the use of such funds*, to prevent irregularities and fraud and the necessary steps should be taken to recover funds lost, wrongly paid or incorrectly used in accordance with Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002 of 25 June 2002 on the Financial Regulation applicable to the general budget of the European Communities, Commission Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 2342/2002 of 23 December 2002 laying down detailed rules for implementation of the Financial Regulation and any future amendments. Council Regulations (EC, Euratom) No 2988/95 of 18 December 1995 on the protection of the European Communities' financial interests, (Euratom, EC) No 2185/96 of 11 November 1996 concerning on-the-spot checks and inspections carried out by the Commission in order to protect the European Communities' financial interests against fraud and other irregularities and Regulation (EC) No 1074/1999 of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning investigations conducted by the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) .

Justification

From the moment public funds are committed, there must be monitoring of the uses – effective or otherwise – to which such appropriations are put by the recipients.

Amendment 8

Recital 13

(13) In the implementation of this programme adequate attention needs to be paid to gender mainstreaming, as well as to, inter alia, *the* working conditions,

(13) In the implementation of this programme adequate attention needs to be paid to gender mainstreaming, as well as to, inter alia, working conditions, *measures for*

transparency of recruitment processes, and career development as regards the researchers recruited on projects and programmes funded under the actions of this programme, for which the Commission Recommendation of 11 March 2005 on the European Charter for Researchers and on a Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers offers a reference framework.

reconciling working and family life, including, for example, part-time fellowships, the transparency of recruitment processes, and career development as regards the researchers recruited on projects and programmes funded under the actions of this programme, for which the Commission Recommendation of 11 March 2005 on the European Charter for Researchers and on a Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers offers a reference framework.

Amendment 9
Recital 14

(14) This programme is in conformity with ***and underpins the further development and implementation of*** the integrated strategy on human resources in research and development in Europe on the basis of the ‘Mobility Strategy for the ERA’ and *the* ‘Researchers in the ERA: one profession, multiple careers’, *as well as* takes into account the Council conclusions on human resources in R&D of 18 April 2005.

(14) This programme is in conformity with and ***aims to create a genuine European Research Area as set out in*** the integrated strategy on human resources in research and development in Europe on the basis of the ‘Mobility Strategy for the ERA’ and ‘Researchers in the ERA: one profession, multiple careers’, *and* takes into account the Council conclusions on human resources in R&D of 18 April 2005.
In order to create a genuine European Research Area, Member States are invited to apply the European Charter for Researchers and the Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers.

Amendment 10
Recital 14 a (new)

(14a) The People programme aims to increase the human research and development potential in Europe in terms of both quality and quantity, partly by recognising the ‘profession’ of researcher. This would favour the maintenance of excellence in basic research and the organic development of technological research, and would encourage the mobility of European researchers from and throughout Europe. Moreover, it would help to provide the right conditions in order to attract the best foreign researchers to carrying out their research in Europe.

Amendment 11
Article 2, paragraph 1

The Specific Programme shall support the activities for “People”, strengthening, quantitatively and qualitatively, the human potential in research and technology in Europe. The activities supporting training and career development of researchers, referred to as “Marie Curie Actions”, will be reinforced with a better focus on the key aspects of skills and career development and strengthened links with national systems.

The Specific Programme shall support the activities for “People”, ***encouraging people to take up a career as a researcher and*** strengthening, quantitatively and qualitatively, the human, ***and especially female***, potential in research and technology in Europe, ***while ensuring equal access for men and women and paying special attention to the needs of disabled researchers***. The activities supporting *the* training and career development of researchers, referred to as “Marie Curie Actions”, will be reinforced with a better focus on the key aspects of skills and career development and strengthened links with national systems.

Amendment 12
Article 3, paragraphs 1 a, 1 b and 1 c (new)

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

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.

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.

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 13 Article 4, paragraph 1

1. All research activities carried out under the Specific Programme shall be carried out in compliance with fundamental ethical principles.

1. All research activities carried out under the Specific Programme shall be carried out in compliance with fundamental ethical principles ***and with the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union.***

Justification

Spells out the need to observe the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights.

Amendment 14 Article 4, paragraph 3

3. The following research shall not be financed under this programme:

– research ***activities that are prohibited in all Member States***

– research ***activities to be carried out in a Member State where such research is prohibited.***

3. The following ***fields of*** research shall not be financed under this programme:

– research ***activity aimed at cloning of human embryos,***

– research ***activity intended to modify the genetic heritage of human beings which could make such changes heritable,***

– ***research activity intended to create human embryos solely for research purposes or for the purpose of stem cell procurement and research activity using cells from such embryos.***

Justification

This amendment was tabled with the same wording in the Framework programme. This question should be solved in the Framework programme but for the sake of coherence, is tabled also for the specific programmes.

Amendment 15 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 16 Article 6, paragraph 1

1. The Commission shall draw up a work programme for the implementation of the specific programme, setting out in greater detail the objectives and scientific and technological priorities set out in Annex, the funding scheme to be used for the topic on which proposals are invited, and the timetable for implementation.

1. The Commission shall draw up a work programme for the implementation of the specific programme, setting out in greater detail the objectives and scientific and technological priorities set out in Annex, the funding scheme to be used for the topic on which proposals are invited, and the timetable for implementation. ***This work programme shall also seek to simplify access procedures to the 7th Framework Programme and to promote the dissemination of information about the activities carried out under the 7th Framework Programme.***

Amendment 17 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, ***researcher training, and career development*** activities carried out by the Member States, associated countries and European and international organisations, ***along with any contribution anticipated, in terms of European added value, the expected impact on industrial competitiveness, and the programme's***

relationship with other Community policies. It shall be updated where appropriate.

Justification

This amendment is intended to highlight the importance of training and a career for researchers and draws attention also to synergic interactions with Community policies.

Amendment 18 Article 6, paragraph 3

3. *The work programme will specify the criteria on which proposals for indirect actions under the funding schemes shall be evaluated and projects selected. The criteria will be those assessing qualitative aspects of the proposers (researchers/organisations) and their potential for further progression, including where appropriate their implementing capacity; the quality of the proposed activity in scientific training and/or transfer of knowledge terms; the Community added value and the structuring effect of the proposed activity in terms of its contribution to the objectives of the specific programme and the work programme. These criteria and any weightings and thresholds may be further specified or complemented in the work programme.*

3. Proposals for indirect actions under the funding schemes shall be evaluated and projects selected ***with account being taken of the following principles:***

- scientific and/or technological excellence;***
- how the project relates to the objectives of the Specific Programme;***
- the calibre and implementing capacity of the proposers (researchers/organisations) and their potential for further progression;***
- implementation of the principle of equal treatment and equal opportunities for women and men;***
- the quality of the proposed activity in terms of scientific training and/or knowledge transfer objectives.***

In this connection the work programme

shall specify in greater detail the assessment and selection criteria and may add further requirements, weightings, and thresholds.

Justification

Better definition of the principles governing selection.

Amendment 19
Article 7, paragraph 2

2. The procedure laid down in Article 8(2) shall apply *for* the adoption of the work programme referred to in Article 6(1).

2. The ***management*** procedure laid down in Article 8(2) shall apply *to* the adoption of the work programme referred to in Article 6(1).

Justification

The conditions governing programme management are those specified in Article 8. Any failure to make that clear might lead to misunderstandings about the programme procedures.

Amendment 20
Article 8, paragraph 4

4. The period provided for in *Article 4(3)* of Decision 1999/468/EC shall be two months.

4. The period provided for in ***Articles 4(3) and 5(6)*** of Decision 1999/468/EC shall be two months.

Amendment 21
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

In view of the People programme's importance in the framework programme, which is subject to the codecision procedure, Parliament should be informed of the results obtained by the programme's activities.

Amendment 22
Article 8, paragraph 5 a (new)

5a. The Commission's 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 23
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 24
Article 8 b (new)

Article 8b

The Commission shall undertake the independent monitoring, assessment, and review laid down in Article 7 of the Decision establishing the 7th Framework Programme (2007-2013) as regards the activities carried out in the areas covered by this Specific Programme.

Justification

New article intended to define the Commission's role in charge of monitoring and review.

Amendment 25

Annex, Introduction, paragraph 1

One of the main competitive edges in science and technology ***is the quantity and quality of its human resources***. As a prerequisite for increasing Europe's capacity and performance in research and technological development and for consolidating and further developing the European Research Area, the overall strategic aim of this programme is to make Europe more attractive to researchers. This shall be done by pursuing a considerable structuring effect throughout Europe on the organisation, performance and quality of research training, on the active career development of researchers, on knowledge-sharing *through* researchers between sectors and research organisations, ***and on strong participation by women in research and development***.

Human resources are of great importance for increasingly knowledge-based competitiveness and development in science and technology. ***The fact of having many scientists of high calibre gives Europe a competitive edge***. As a prerequisite for increasing Europe's capacity and performance in research and technological development and for consolidating and further developing the European Research Area, the overall strategic aim of this programme is, ***inter alia, the constant improvement of university research centres*** to make Europe more attractive to researchers. This shall be done by pursuing a considerable structuring effect throughout Europe on the organisation, performance and quality of research training, on the active career development of researchers, on knowledge-sharing among researchers *and* between sectors and research organisations, ***encouraging practices involving movement from academia to industry and in the opposite direction, and on the active career development of researchers, with particular reference to participation by women and young researchers*** in research and development, ***while promoting the reconciliation of work and family life***.

Amendment 26

Annex, Introduction, paragraph 2

The programme will be implemented by systematic investments in people, mainly through a coherent set of "Marie Curie Actions", ***addressing*** researchers in terms of their skills and competence development at all stages of their careers, from initial research training to ***career*** development and

The recommendations set out in the European Charter for Researchers and the Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers must be taken into account in the programme which will be implemented by systematic *investment* in people, mainly through a coherent set of 'Marie Curie

life-long training. Mobility, both trans-national and intersectoral, recognition of *experiences* acquired in different sectors and countries, and adequate working conditions are key elements throughout the “Marie Curie Actions”.

Actions’, *with particular reference to the European added value that they will generate as a structuring effect on the European Research Area. These actions address* researchers in terms of their skills and competence development at all stages of their careers, from initial research training to *professional* development and life-long training *in the public and private sector*. Mobility, both trans-national and intersectoral, *which is central to this programme*, recognition of *experience* acquired in different sectors and countries, and adequate working conditions, *in terms both of the independence of research, the alignment of remuneration with the best international standards, and greater attention to welfare and insurance cover*, are key elements throughout the ‘Marie Curie Actions’.

Finally, to promote the mobility of researchers within the European Union, it is necessary to start taking measures to harmonise tax regimes for researchers.

Amendment 27

Annex, Introduction, paragraph 3 a (new)

Support can also be granted to post-doctoral positions to researchers from the new Member States to participate in established research groups in other Member States.

Justification

The integrating measures supporting full participation by the new member states in all sectors of the Union, should, of course, be extended to research as well.

Amendment 28

Annex, Introduction, paragraph 4

A strong participation by enterprises, including SMEs, is considered a crucial added value for this programme. The enhancement of industry-academia cooperation in terms of research training,

Participation by enterprises, including SMEs, is considered a crucial added value for this programme. The enhancement of industry-academia cooperation in terms of research training, career development and

career development and knowledge-sharing is encouraged throughout the “Marie Curie Actions”, while a dedicated action is addressing industry-academia pathways and partnerships.

knowledge-sharing is encouraged throughout the “Marie Curie Actions”, while a dedicated action is addressing industry-academia pathways and partnerships. ***It is necessary to conserve the academic freedom of research workers under cooperation arrangements between industry and universities.***

Justification

Partnership arrangements between the academic and business worlds should not be subject to pressures of a political or financial nature.

Amendment 29

Annex, Introduction, paragraph 4 a (new)

In the context of the Marie Claire Actions, particular attention must be paid to the protection and sharing of intellectual property, secured by means of suitable contract clauses that safeguard the individual researcher, when the research results in a patent for producing goods placed on the market.

Justification

It is essential for the framework programme to safeguard the results obtained from research through suitable contract clauses to guarantee the individual legal position of a researcher involved in programmes that result in initiatives to produce and market products, when their creations was due to the decisive contribution made by the intellectual efforts of one or more researchers.

Amendment 30

Annex, Introduction, paragraph 5

The international dimension, as a fundamental component of human resources in research and development in Europe, will be addressed in terms of career development, as well as of strengthening and enriching international cooperation through researchers and attracting research talent to Europe. The international dimension will be

The international dimension, as a fundamental component of human resources in research and development in Europe, will be addressed in terms of career development, ***for both women and men***, as well as of strengthening and enriching international cooperation through researchers and attracting research talent to

incorporated throughout the “Marie Curie Actions” and in addition will be subject to self-standing actions.

Europe **by providing appropriate incentives to this end.** The international dimension will be incorporated throughout the “Marie Curie Actions” and in addition will be subject to self-standing actions.

Justification

Experience thus far shows that researchers, in particular, wish to relocate only in circumstances which meet certain fundamental principles, such as their quality of life and the quality of their work.

Amendment 31

Annex, Introduction, paragraph 6

Due account will be taken of the principles of sustainable development and gender equality. The programme aims to ensure gender mainstreaming by encouraging equal opportunities in all ‘Marie Curie Actions’ and by benchmarking gender participation (a target of at least 40% participation by women). In addition, the actions will be designed to ensure that researchers can achieve an appropriate work/life balance **and to contribute to facilitate resuming** a research career after a break. Furthermore, considerations of the ethical, social, legal and wider cultural aspects of the research to be undertaken and its potential applications, as well as socio-economic impacts of scientific and technological development and foresight, will be addressed under this specific programme where relevant.

Due account will be taken of the principles of sustainable development and gender equality. The programme aims to ensure gender mainstreaming by encouraging equal opportunities in all ‘Marie Curie Actions’ and by benchmarking gender participation (a target of at least 40% participation by women). In addition, the actions will be designed to **remove barriers to mobility and ensure that researchers can achieve an appropriate work/life balance, by providing suitable incentives to assist their families and helping researchers either to find a permanent job or to resume** a research career after a break. Furthermore, considerations of the ethical, social, legal and wider cultural aspects of the research to be undertaken and its potential applications, as well as socio-economic impacts of scientific and technological development and foresight, will be addressed under this specific programme where relevant.

Amendment 32

Annex, Introduction, paragraph 7

In order to fully exploit Europe’s potential for becoming more attractive to researchers, the 'Marie Curie Actions' will create concrete synergies with **other** actions both

In order to fully exploit Europe’s potential for becoming more attractive to researchers, the 'Marie Curie Actions' will create concrete synergies with actions both within

within the framework of the Community research policy, as well as within actions under other Community policies, *e.g. on* education, cohesion and employment. Such synergies will also be sought with actions at national and international level.

the framework of the Community research policy, as well as within actions under other Community policies, ***making sure to include gender mainstreaming in fields such as*** education, cohesion and employment. Such synergies will also be sought with actions at ***regional***, national and international level ***specifically with a view to attaining regional cohesion with account being taken of the need for the less developed regions to attract researchers so as to enable them to pursue their own medium- and long-term development strategies.***

Justification

As the Commission proposal plans to focus specifically on gender mainstreaming, it should be made clear where appropriate that the activities apply to both women and men.

Amendment 33

Annex, Introduction, paragraph 7 a (new)

It will be essential to strengthen links between research and the university reform and convergence process (the 'Bologna Process') so as to encourage the mobility of research workers and ensure that it does not lead to a system designed solely to ensure the rapid completion of university studies at the expense of experience abroad.

Amendment 34

Annex, Activities, Initial training of researchers, paragraph 1

This action supports the initial training of researchers, typically ***directed at the first*** four years of ***researchers'*** careers, plus ***up to*** one additional year if necessary for the completion of the initial training. Through a trans-national networking mechanism, aimed at structuring a substantial share of the high-quality initial research training

This action supports the initial training of researchers, ***which is*** typically four years ***(full-time equivalent) of their*** careers, plus one additional year if necessary for the completion of the initial training. Through a trans-national networking mechanism, aimed at structuring a substantial share of the high-quality initial research training

capacity throughout Member States and associated countries in both public and private sectors, the action aims to improve researchers' career perspectives in both sectors, thereby also enhancing the attraction of young *researchers* to research careers.

capacity throughout Member States and associated countries in both public and private sectors, the action aims to improve career perspectives in both sectors, thereby also enhancing the attraction of young *people* to research careers.

Justification

Adding the phrase 'full-time equivalent' prevents any discrimination that would conflict with policies for maintaining a work/life balance. The Marie Curie activity for 'Initial training of researchers' aims to facilitate and enhance the attraction to young people of taking up a career in research. So it is addressed to young people who have an aptitude for research.

Amendment 35

Annex, Activities, Initial training of researchers, paragraph 3

The joint research training programme should be coherent in terms of quality standards, with due provision for supervision and mentoring arrangements. The joint training programme shall exploit complementary competences of the participants in the network, including from enterprises, as well as other synergies. It shall require the mutual recognition of the quality of the training and, if possible, of diplomas and other certificates awarded.

The joint research training programme should be coherent in terms of quality standards, with due provision for supervision and mentoring arrangements. The joint training programme shall exploit complementary competences of the participants in the network, including from enterprises, as well as other synergies. It shall require the mutual recognition of the quality of the training and, if possible, of diplomas and other certificates awarded. ***Particular attention shall be paid to the problems surrounding the long-term employment of researchers.***

Justification

The training of researchers involves using considerable resources, and they should not be wasted. Hence there is a need to take a number of measures for the employment of the most talented people in the European research market.

Amendment 36

Annex, Activities, Initial training of researchers, paragraph 5, bullet 2 a (new)

- ***the possibility of setting up posts of limited duration at universities for researchers working in enterprises with the***

intention of strengthening cooperation between academia and business and of transferring knowledge;

Justification

This would increase the mobility for researchers between industry/business and academia, as well as improve the exchange of knowledge between academic and industrial research.

Amendment 37

Annex, Activities, Initial training of researchers, paragraph 5, bullets 3 a and 3 b (new)

- ***activities to be pursued in cooperation with third countries for the purpose of training early-stage researchers;***
- ***the provision of assistance to promote publications, studies and books by researchers aimed at disseminating knowledge and supporting the theoretical and scientific development of researchers.***

Justification

Cooperation with third countries should be encouraged where it could bring added value to the training of our early-stage researchers.

The publication of researchers' theoretical and scientific views, particularly those of young researchers, should be given special support as it would not only promote new views but also create the appropriate conditions for creative, scientific rivalry.

Amendment 38

Annex, Activities, Life-long training and career development, paragraph 2

Researchers addressed under this action should have at least four years of full-time research experience; as the action is directed at life-long training and career development, it is however expected that the researchers will typically have a more senior profile in terms of experience.

Researchers addressed under this action should have at least four years of full-time ***or equivalent*** research experience, ***or a doctorate***; as the action is directed at life-long training and career development, it is however expected that the researchers will typically have a more senior profile in terms of experience.

Justification

By adding the term 'equivalent' (which allows for returning after a career break) the

amendment aims to prevent any discrimination that would conflict with policies for maintaining a work/life balance.

Amendment 39

Annex, Activities, Lifelong training and career development, paragraph 4, bullet 2

- Other public or private bodies, including large research organisations, that finance and manage fellowship programmes either with an official mandate or recognised by public authorities, such as agencies established by governments under private law with a public service mission, charities, etc.;
- Other public or private bodies, including large research organisations, **universities or other organisations** that finance and manage fellowship programmes either with an official mandate or recognised by public authorities, such as agencies established by governments under private law with a public service mission, charities, **enterprises in cooperation with public authorities** etc.;

Justification

It is worth including universities explicitly in the research organisations and bodies eligible to benefit from the co-funding modality, as they influence the creation and training of human resources in the research sector.

Enterprises with resources and a wish to participate in such a co-financing-scheme should not be excluded, even though they can't be allowed to have a decisive impact on the program itself.

Amendment 40

Annex, Activities, Lifelong training and career development, paragraph 6

Both implementation modes will initially be run in parallel. In the course of the Framework Programme an impact assessment of the two modes will determine the implementation modalities for the remainder of the programme.

Both implementation modes will initially be run in parallel **by means of the co-funding modality, providing an initial phase designed to allow them to be carried out**. In the course of the Framework Programme an impact assessment of the two modes will determine the implementation modalities for the remainder of the programme.

Justification

Not all countries or regions have mobility programmes, so there could be disparity of treatment, which a pilot phase could prevent.

Amendment 41

Annex, Activities, Industry-academia partnerships and pathways, paragraph 1

This action seeks to open and foster dynamic pathways between public research organizations and private commercial enterprises, including in particular SMEs, based on longer term cooperation programmes with a high potential for increasing knowledge-sharing and mutual understanding of the different cultural settings and skill requirements of both sectors.

This action seeks to open and foster dynamic pathways between public research organizations and private commercial enterprises, including in particular SMEs, based on longer term cooperation programmes with a high potential for increasing knowledge-sharing and mutual understanding of the different cultural settings and skill requirements of both sectors. ***The action will be designed not to restrict the mobility of participating researchers, by means of restrictions on the publishing of research results or on undertaking work for certain organisations.***

Justification

Intellectual property issues must be solved beforehand when increasing industry-academia co-operation. EU funds should be spent as to strengthen the Union as a whole; therefore it should be clarified that agreements on co-operation must not make restrictions on mobility, such as periods of “quarantine”, assuming future positions or publishing research result.

Amendment 42

Annex, Activities, Industry-academia partnerships and pathways, paragraph 2, introductory part

The action will be implemented in a flexible way through co-operation programmes between organisations from both sectors from at least two different Member States or associated States, with support for human resources interactions within that framework. Community support will take one or more of the following forms:

The action will be implemented in a flexible way, ***drawing on experience gained from existing industry-academia partnerships throughout the European Union***, through co-operation programmes between organisations from both sectors from at least two different Member States or associated States, with support for human resources interactions within that framework. Community support will take one or more of the following forms:

Justification

Most universities already have a well established partnership with industry and business. This experience, i.e. on the need for certain capacities and regulations of intellectual property

rights, should be used as a platform for future actions.

Amendment 43

Annex, Activities, Industry-academia partnerships and pathways, paragraph 2, bullet 3 a
(new)

- ***actions to strengthen the development of research driven regional clusters;***

Justification

An important measure for strengthening R&D in SMEs is to make conscious efforts in regions where regional clusters can be found near universities. Oftentimes, a strategy aimed at clusters will be more successful than a traditional approach, based on outreach to individual small firms.

Amendment 44

Annex, Activities, The international dimension, paragraph 1

Recognising the international dimension as a fundamental component of human resources in R&D in Europe, this dimension is addressed through dedicated actions both in terms of career development of European researchers and in terms of strengthening international co-operation through researchers.

Recognising the international dimension as a fundamental component of human resources in R&D in Europe, this dimension is addressed through dedicated actions both in terms of career development of European researchers and in terms of strengthening international co-operation through researchers ***at national or regional level.***

Justification

The proposal for the co-financing of mobility programmes may have a leverage effect, permitting account to be taken of the differing needs of researchers embarking on their careers and those with more experience. The regions are major actors in the mobility of researchers, and should therefore be mentioned in this connection.

Amendment 45

Annex, Activities, The international dimension, paragraph 2, point (i)

i) outgoing international fellowships, with mandatory return, for experienced researchers within the framework of *lifelong* training and competence diversification, to acquire new skills and knowledge;

i) ***appropriately funded*** outgoing international fellowships, with mandatory return ***to the European Union***, for experienced researchers within the framework of *lifelong* training and competence diversification, ***and for early-stage researchers***, to ***enable them to*** acquire new skills and knowledge;

Justification

Mobility is often hampered by inadequate funding, whether in the form of research fellowships or of return and reintegration grants, especially when researchers have reached the middle of, or an advanced stage in, their careers. Early-stage researchers should be equally eligible for fellowships, to enable them to develop their skills and come back highly qualified.

Researchers should not be obliged to come back to their country of origin and nowhere else. Instead, they should have the option of adding to their experience before returning to any other Union Member State.

Amendment 46

Annex, Activities, The international dimension, paragraph 2, point (ii)

ii) return and international reintegration grants for experienced researchers after an international experience. Under this action the networking of researchers from Member States and associated countries abroad will also be supported with a view to *keep* them actively informed about and involved in developments in the European Research Area.

ii) ***appropriately funded*** return and international reintegration grants for experienced ***or early-stage*** researchers after an international experience. Under this action the networking of researchers from Member States and associated countries abroad will also be supported with a view to *keeping* them actively informed about and involved in developments in the European Research Area, ***as will incentives to return for researchers based outside Europe.***

Justification

Mobility is often hampered by inadequate funding, whether in the form of research fellowships or of return and reintegration grants, especially when researchers have reached the middle of, or an advanced stage in, their careers. Early-stage researchers should be equally eligible for fellowships, to enable them to develop their skills and come back highly qualified. Expatriate European researchers must be encouraged to return to Europe.

Amendment 47

Annex, Activities, The international dimension, paragraph 3, point (i)

i) incoming international fellowships in order to attract highly qualified third-country researchers to Member States and associated countries, for knowledge enhancement and to build up high-level connections. Researchers from developing countries or from countries with emerging economies may benefit from support for a return phase.

i) incoming international fellowships in order to attract highly qualified third-country researchers to Member States and associated countries, for knowledge enhancement and to build up high-level connections. Researchers from developing countries or from countries with emerging economies may benefit from support for a return phase.

Networking of third-country researchers in Member States and associated countries, with a view to structuring and developing their contacts with their regions of origin, will also be supported;

Networking of third-country researchers in Member States and associated countries, with a view to structuring and developing their contacts with their regions of origin, will also be supported ***and incentives will be offered to good researchers in all parts of the world to encourage them to settle in Europe;***

Justification

In general, incentives should be offered to encourage researchers to settle in, or return to, Europe.

Amendment 48 Annex, Activities, Specific actions

In support of the creation of a genuine European labour market for researchers, a coherent set of accompanying actions is to be implemented, with a view to removing obstacles to mobility and to enhancing the career perspectives of researchers in Europe. These actions will aim, in particular, at raising stakeholders and general public awareness, including through ‘Marie Curie’ awards, at stimulating and supporting action at Member State level and at complementing Community actions.

In support of the creation of a genuine European labour market for researchers, a coherent set of accompanying actions is to be implemented, with a view to removing obstacles to ***professional*** mobility, ***especially those related to researchers’ social security and tax affairs, which often act as a disincentive to entering the research field,*** and to enhancing the career perspectives of researchers in Europe, ***making it easier to reconcile work and family life, not least by enabling them to benefit from appropriate financial and salary terms as well as from social security arrangements.*** These actions will aim, in particular, at raising stakeholders and general public awareness, including through ‘Marie Curie’ awards, at stimulating and supporting action at Member State level and at complementing Community actions. ***In addition there will be provision for European initiatives to facilitate the mobility of researchers and their families, and their integration in the host countries. All ‘Marie Curie’ initiatives must guarantee equal opportunities and eliminate all obstacles facing disabled research workers.***

Justification

It is important to encourage support for the European network of mobility centres, to help with the integration of researchers and their families in the host countries; as also to draw the public's attention, through publicity campaigns and workshops, to the job of a researcher and the Marie Curie actions.

Differences between Member States as regards social security systems and taxation levels can impede mobility, and concerted steps accordingly need to be taken as a matter of urgency. Given that salary is one of the most obvious outward signs of professional recognition, a decent, attractive income must be guaranteed in order to arouse interest in research careers.

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

Introduction

At Lisbon, Europe planned to effect a major comeback on the world stage through the development by the year 2010 of a knowledge-based society centred above all on research and innovation.

Now, five years on from Lisbon and with five years to go until 2010, a few observations are called for, as we have failed to narrow the gap between ourselves and the other driving forces in the world's development.

The USA has placed itself at an advantage by channelling massive resources into research while the findings of its military testing (such as the Internet and GPS) are subsequently turned to account on the world market; the emerging Asian nations on the other hand are benefiting from extremely cheap labour accompanied by technological progress which is also *low-cost*, unhampered as it is by expensive measures to protect the environment, employment and health.

Finding itself hard pressed as a result of this, Europe is stepping up the Lisbon process, increasing its investments in research, technology, training and innovation so as to become more competitive and secure subsequent growth and better employment figures.

In this context, Europe's fresh emergence is driven by research, research workers representing the key to greater knowledge, which is necessary in order to become more competitive. The new Lisbon strategy centres on people as the principal means of achieving growth and employment.

It is therefore useful and necessary to continue the Marie Curie initiatives, which have already highlighted the importance of research worker mobility in ensuring any useful exchange of knowledge and ideas. However, this alone is not enough to meet a challenge of such dimensions.

In our opinion, it is necessary to create a true European research area, setting in motion a long and unstoppable stream of ideas which can serve as a guide for the European Charter for Researchers and their Code of Conduct, flowing through all the Member States and drawing them in. It is necessary to create a major European research market within which the finest minds can be allowed to contend freely and win the recognition they deserve, together with acknowledgement of their legitimate career ambitions. To attract research workers (back) to a research career in Europe, it is necessary to offer them the lure of a major project, they must have the means and prospects for its completion, and be able to contemplate the future with confidence, and without the nightmare of having to abandon their families because they cannot afford to bring them too.

A researcher's career

The Commission proposal for the People programme takes account of positive experience with the Marie Curie initiatives, which have greatly stimulated growth at the highest level of

research; and in these cases they have indeed turned out to be veritable laboratories of intellectual endeavour.

In the light of this encouraging experience it was only right to adjust the supporting structure, by making the changes that mature experience itself has suggested.

The objectives of the specific 'People' programme are very ambitious, seeking to improve and increase human resources in the European research and development sector.

The programme seeks to encourage talented individuals to opt for a career in research, encouraging European research workers to remain in Europe and attracting other research workers from all over the world. To achieve this, the research career needs to become a *profession* and to be respected and suitably remunerated as such. A researcher's pay is an important factor in enhancing the career's attraction. So there is a need to create the pay conditions for researchers that take account of the best international standards and give greater attention to the associated social security and insurance cover. This will help to ensure that research is *independent*.

To be valid, research needs to be as independent as possible and to have a structuring effect on the *European Research Area*, in which researchers should be able to move with total freedom to develop their abilities and improve their skills; they should also have an opportunity to meet and acquire further knowledge, upgrade their capabilities and interact with society in workshops, conferences and specialised exchanges, to disseminate the results of their research and act as very research laboratories themselves.

This should be made possible through a *special network* funded by the Marie Curie Actions.

The network should serve to encourage researchers' career development and their *professional engagement* on completion of their training.

Given that the objective of the 'People' programme is to encourage *research careers* it is necessary to assist research workers at each stage of their career, commencing with their early training.

The importance of *female research workers* should not be forgotten and special efforts should be made to encourage their research career prospects without forcing them to sacrifice their family lives. This requires special measures to make it possible to reconcile family life with a career and enable women to resume work after taking a legitimate career break.

The way in which researchers and their families are integrated into the host country is closely bound up with improvement of the European research market, which means that it is essential to support the *European network of centres of mobility*. This task involves easing the living conditions of workers in the host country and at the same time raising public awareness of the research worker and the role played by the Marie Curie Actions.

Co-funding

The co-funding mechanism deserves of a heading of its own; it is much and often discussed, because the hardest aspect is determining common research objectives, whether these are the

aims of public or private bodies.

This means that the contribution made by national programmes and private investment must make it possible to implement human resources and give special attention to excellence, the *added value* that will have a structuring effect for the European Research Area. Hence the need for close coordination between the People programme, national programmes, structural policies and Community policies for education and training, so as to optimise efforts and concentrate them on the same goal, that of *motivating researchers so as to motivate research*.

Motivating research also means safeguarding it with valid legislative instruments, and since there is no standard to control intellectual property, special attention needs to be paid in the Marie Curie Actions to the protection and sharing of the *intellectual property* created, through contractual clauses to safeguard the results produced by research and the individual researcher.

Finally, since not everyone is prepared to use a mechanism as complex as that for co-funding the mobility programmes, there should be provision for a *pilot stage* to prevent disparities in the treatment of researchers from countries or regions that do not have mobility programmes of their own.

Research must be open to all subjects meeting the required conditions, so it is important that the programme for selecting human resources for research should be easily accessible. The Commission must accordingly make arrangements, when drawing up its working programme, and in accordance with the rules for participation in tenders, to *simplify and speed up bureaucratic procedures*, to ensure that procedural obstacles do not compromise important scientific initiatives.

The *European Parliament* should be constantly informed of the results obtained by the actions of the specific People programme, which can be improved and adjusted if initial experience of its introduction suggests this is required.

Budget

Achievement of the ambitious objectives of the specific 'People' programme is closely linked to one crucial factor, *a consistent budget*.

The Member States are committed to investing 3 % of their GDP in the research sector; the EU should be showing the way forward, while ensuring that the overall development strategy is not penalised by a shortage of financial resources in its budget. It would indeed be paradoxical if the Member States increased their investment in research and the EU decided to cut back its own, thus frustrating the programme under way or its means of co-financing.

Investing in knowledge means, above all else, investing in young people, training them, and enabling them to compete internationally and face the challenge of the future. That challenge is called research.

23.6.2006

OPINION OF THE COMMITTEE ON BUDGETS

for the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy

on the proposal for a Council decision concerning the specific programme “People” implementing the 7th Framework Programme (2007-2013) of the European Community for research, technological development and demonstration activities (COM(2005)0442 – C6-0383/2005 – 2005/0187(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 **People specific programme** will stimulate people to embark on and pursue research careers, encourage researchers to stay in Europe, and attract the best brains to Europe. The activities build on the long and successful experience of the Marie Curie actions in responding to researchers' needs for training, mobility, and career development. While offering considerable continuity, a stronger focus is given to the following aspects:

- An increased structuring effect, for example through the introduction of co-funding of regional, national and international programmes in the action line “Life-long training and career development”.
- Participation of industry: while the bottom-up character of the Marie Curie actions will be preserved, a stronger orientation will be placed on training and career development for and in different sectors, in particular in the private sector. This will be enhanced by stimulating inter-sectoral experiences through active participation of

industry in all the actions and by putting in place the dedicated scheme for knowledge-sharing in partnerships between the public and private sector, including SMEs in particular.

- The international dimension will be reinforced. Besides outgoing fellowships with a mandatory return, aimed at contributing to the life long training and career development of EU-researchers, the international co-operation through researchers from third countries will be further expanded.

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 of expenditure stated in the general budget.

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.

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)

¹ OJ C 49, 28.2.2006, p. 37.

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 concerning the specific programme “People” implementing the 7th Framework Programme (2007-2013) of the European Community for research, technological development and demonstration activities
References	COM(2005)0442 – C6-0383/2005 – 2005/0187(CNS)
Committee responsible	ITRE
Opinion by Date announced in plenary	BUDG 17.11.2005
Enhanced cooperation – date announced in plenary	0.0.0000
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)	...

25.4.2006

OPINION OF THE COMMITTEE ON EMPLOYMENT AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS

for the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy

on the proposal for a Council decision concerning the specific programme 'People' implementing the 7th Framework Programme (2007-2013) of the European Community for research, technological development and demonstration activities (COM(2005)0442 – C6-0383/2005 – 2005/0187(CNS))

Draftswoman: Jamila Madeira

SHORT JUSTIFICATION

Introduction

In March 2002 the Barcelona European Council charted the goal of raising overall innovation and R & D expenditure to 3% of GDP by 2010. One of the ways in which the framework programme is seeking to attain this goal, which has been singled out as the principal challenge, is to tap human resources commensurate with European research. It has been estimated that if it is to meet the '3% target' by 2010, the EU will need, broadly speaking, more than 600 000 researchers.

To surmount the challenge, which applies to public and private research alike, the different objectives have to be combined in order to

- increase the number of graduates and the proportion of science degrees;
- mobilise all sources of research potential, especially women, at international level;
- help reduce the number of scientists who change from research to other occupations;
- encourage scientists to stay in the EU.

The programme

'People' is one of the five proposed specific programmes stemming from the Commission's proposed seventh framework programme (2007-2013). The structure put forward breaks down into four main specific programmes – *Cooperation*, *Ideas*, *People*, and *Capacities* – each corresponding to a major European research policy objective; a future specific programme

will cover the direct actions to be carried out by the *Joint Research Centre*. The *People* programme thus builds on the successful experience of the *Marie Curie* actions by responding to researchers' training, mobility, and career development needs.

As well as offering continuity, it also focuses more especially on the following aspects:

a more marked **structuring effect**, for example through the introduction of co-funding of regional, national, and international programmes under the heading of lifelong training and career development;

participation of industry: while maintaining the impetus generated by the *Marie Curie* actions, the programme will be oriented more strongly towards career development for and in various sectors, first and foremost in the private sector;

the **international dimension** is to be strengthened. In addition to fellowships with a mandatory return arrangement, intended to promote lifelong training and career development for researchers, international cooperation involving third-country researchers is to be expanded.

The Committee on Employment and Social Affairs welcomes the Commission proposals relating to the seventh research framework programme in general and to the '*People*' specific programme in particular. Investment in human capital is vital in order to meet the challenge of a knowledge-based economy and society.

The crisis affecting the production of human resources for SET (science, engineering, and technology) has assumed alarming proportions¹. That is why greater efforts must be brought to bear to eliminate the root causes, thus ensuring that research work in the EU will be considered interesting, stimulating, financially attractive, and rewarding.

The committee is pleased to note the proposals to expand the *Marie Curie actions* and increase their structuring effect. It hopes that this will also act as a catalyst for more generous public funding, since 'the level of public funding per researcher in Europe is clearly well below that in the US. It is not surprising, therefore, that the number of European researchers, namely in the public sector, does not translate into the same level of working conditions and, consequently, of results. Scientists – especially young ones – need better salaries'.

The committee believes researcher mobility to be a *sine qua non* of successful science. To follow up new discoveries, teams of researchers from all parts of Europe need to meet with a view to exchanging ideas and working together. Other factors that would do much to make a research career in Europe more attractive and productive include, first of all, improvements to the legal, regulatory, and administrative context in which mobility takes place, especially as regards the conditions of entry and residence for third-country researchers, and, secondly, coordination of social security systems and the removal of further obstacles to mobility related to taxation and the recognition of diplomas and qualifications.

¹ Europe needs more scientists. Increasing human resources for science and technology in Europe. Report of the High Level Group on Human Resources for Science and Technology in Europe. Chaired by Prof. José Mariano Gago. European Commission, 2004.

One final point to bear in mind is that the Commission will be responsible for implementing the specific programme, assisted and guided for that purpose by a committee. The Committee on Employment and Social Affairs urges the Commission to provide for the appropriate involvement of Parliament, as proposed in the amendments set out in this opinion.

AMENDMENTS

The Committee on Employment and Social Affairs 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 Commission¹

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 *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 as well as other Community actions that are necessary for the overall strategic effort for the implementation of the Lisbon objectives, alongside in particular of those on structural funds, agriculture, education, ***lifelong*** training, competitiveness and innovation,) ***employment, equal opportunities and equal treatment, appropriate working conditions***, industry, health, consumer protection, employment, energy, transport and environment.

Justification

Lifelong training is essential, especially in research careers, given the growing tendency to shed researchers in the middle of their careers under early or compulsory retirement schemes (see COM(2003)0436).

Ensuring appropriate working conditions, with everything that entails, is one of the most important conditions for promoting research.

Equal opportunities and equal treatment in the field of employment is a fundamental social principle which must be applied in order to achieve the Lisbon objectives, towards which the

¹ Not yet published in OJ.

framework programme must contribute.

Amendment 2

Recital 7

(7) The international dimension is a fundamental component of human resources in research and development in Europe. As provided for under Article 170 of the Treaty, this specific programme is open to the participation of countries having concluded the necessary agreements to this effect, and is also open on the project level, and on the basis of mutual benefit, to the participation of entities from third countries and of international organisations for scientific cooperation. Moreover, all actions, as well as dedicated actions in this specific programme are open to participation of individual researchers from third countries.

(7) International cooperation and the international experience acquired by researchers are fundamentally important to research and development in Europe. As provided for under Article 170 of the Treaty, this specific programme is open to the participation of countries having concluded the necessary agreements to this effect, and is also open on the project level, and on the basis of mutual benefit, to the participation of entities from third countries and of international organisations for scientific cooperation. Moreover, all actions, as well as dedicated actions in this specific programme, are open to participation, ***without any form of discrimination,*** of individual researchers from third countries ***and European researchers living in third countries. The adoption of a policy providing incentives should not be focused only on the remuneration of researchers but also on their working conditions. Efforts should be made to speed up the mutual recognition of professional qualifications acquired in third countries.***

Justification

It is necessary to attract 'European brains' who left Europe in order to acquire specialist expertise and have stayed on to do research in the countries where they lived while they were studying.

Participation in the programme should not be subject to discrimination. Moreover, in order to attract researchers from abroad, mutual recognition of professional qualifications acquired in third countries should be speeded up in order to avoid using the human potential in research and technology in Europe and obstructing the free movement of researchers within the Community.

Experience thus far shows that researchers, in particular, wish to relocate only in circumstances which meet certain fundamental principles, such as their quality of life and the

quality of their work.

Amendment 3
Recital 9

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

(9) The Framework Programme should contribute towards promoting sustainable development **and reducing unemployment.**

Justification

The importance of employment-related objectives should be stressed.

Amendment 4
Recital 13

(13) In the implementation of this programme adequate attention needs to be paid to gender mainstreaming, as well as to, inter alia, the working conditions, transparency of recruitment processes, and career development as regards the researchers recruited on projects and programmes funded under the actions of this programme, for which the Commission Recommendation of 11 March 2005 on the European Charter for Researchers and on a Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers offers a reference framework.

(13) In the implementation of this programme adequate attention needs to be paid to gender mainstreaming, as well as to, inter alia, the working conditions, **social welfare amenities**, transparency of recruitment processes, and career development as regards the researchers recruited on projects and programmes funded under the actions of this programme, for which the Commission Recommendation of 11 March 2005 on the European Charter for Researchers and on a Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers offers a reference framework

Justification

The importance of social welfare amenities should be highlighted, given that researchers' families are often called upon to deal with practical matters such as health care or children's schooling (kindergartens, nursery schools, etc.).

Amendment 5
Article 2

The Specific Programme shall support the activities for "People", strengthening, quantitatively and qualitatively, the human potential in research and technology in Europe. The activities supporting training

The Specific Programme shall support the activities for "People", strengthening, quantitatively and qualitatively, the human potential in research and technology **and shall promote knowledge and innovation** in

and career development of researchers, referred to as “Marie Curie Actions”, will be reinforced with a better focus on the key aspects of skills and career development and strengthened links with national systems.

The objectives and the broad lines of those activities are set out in Annex.

Europe. The activities supporting training and career development of researchers, referred to as “Marie Curie Actions”, will be reinforced with a better focus on the key aspects of skills and career development and strengthened links with national systems.

The objectives and the broad lines of those activities are set out in Annex.

Justification

There must be express reference to the result required from the perspective of a quantitative and qualitative strengthening of human potential. In this case, the promotion of scientific knowledge and innovation is the most important result, which also produces a constant cycle of improvement in human skills.

Amendment 6 Article 4, paragraph 1

1. All research activities carried out under the *Specific Programme* shall be carried out in compliance with fundamental ethical principles.

1. All research activities carried out under the *specific programme* shall be carried out in compliance with fundamental ethical principles ***and with the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union.***

Justification

Spells out the need to observe the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights.

Amendment 7 Article 8

1. The Commission shall be assisted by a Committee.

2. Where reference is made to this paragraph, ***the management procedure laid down in Article 4*** of Decision 1999/468/EC shall apply, ***in compliance with Article 7(3) thereof.***

3. Where reference is made to this paragraph, Articles 5 and 7 of Decision

1. The Commission shall be assisted by a Committee.

2. Where reference is made to this paragraph, ***Articles 3 and 7*** of Decision 1999/468/EC shall apply.

3. Where reference is made to this paragraph, Articles 5 and 7 of Decision

1999/468/EC shall apply.

4. The period provided for in Article 4(3) of Decision 1999/468/EC shall be two months.

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.

1999/468/EC shall apply.

4. The period provided for in Article 4(3) of Decision 1999/468/EC shall be two months.

5. The Commission shall regularly inform the Committee **and the European Parliament** of the overall progress of the implementation of the *specific programme*, and shall provide **them** with information about **the Risk-Sharing Finance Facility and** all RTD actions funded under this programme.

Justification

The advisory procedure set out in Council Decision 1999/468/EC is preferable because the Commission retains the implementing powers conferred on it by the Treaties. If Parliament as an arm of the legislative authority has no say in the comitology procedure, then the same should apply to the Council or official bodies of the Member States. The restriction implied in Article 7 is unjustified.

Furthermore, Parliament must be informed about all the RTD actions financed under the programme.

The Risk-Sharing Finance Facility is an important new opportunity provided by the framework programme to which reference should be made.

Amendment 8

Annex, Introduction, paragraph 1

One of the main competitive edges in science and technology is the quantity and quality of its human resources. As a prerequisite for increasing Europe's capacity and performance in research and technological development and for consolidating and further developing the European Research Area, the overall strategic aim of this programme is to make Europe more attractive to researchers. This shall be done by pursuing a considerable structuring effect throughout Europe on the organisation, performance and quality of research training, on the active career development of researchers, on knowledge-

The presence of many scientists of high calibre gives Europe a competitive edge. As a prerequisite for increasing Europe's capacity and performance in research and technological development and for consolidating and further developing the European Research Area, the overall strategic aim of this programme is, ***inter alia, the constant improvement of university research centres*** to make Europe more attractive to researchers. This shall be done by pursuing a considerable structuring effect throughout Europe on the organisation, performance and quality of research training, on the active career

sharing through researchers between sectors and research organisations, and on strong participation by women in research and development.

development of researchers, on knowledge-sharing through researchers between sectors and research organisations, **encouraging practices involving movement from academia to industry and in the opposite direction**, and on strong participation by women **and young researchers** in research and development.

Justification

Scientists are people, not ‘human resources’ ideally meant to attain the highest possible level in terms of their ‘quantity and quality’. That fact should likewise be reflected in the choice of words.

In many sectors, research projects carried out in a business environment are still considered to have lower status, and it is therefore often the case that academic researchers working for companies are not regarded as serious candidates for academic advancement.

University research centres can and should be the main regulatory mechanism for producing and reproducing contemporary knowledge. One of the most characteristic advantages of university research centres is the possibility they have of receiving funding from the State as well as private organisations, undertaking to carry out relevant studies. The knowledge produced can then be disseminated to universities and to the collaborating private organisation.

In many sectors, research projects carried out in the business world still have lower status, and, as a result, academic researchers who work with firms are rarely considered genuine candidates for academic advancement.

Amendment 9

Annex, Introduction, paragraph 2

The programme will be implemented by systematic investments in people, mainly through a coherent set of “Marie Curie Actions”, addressing researchers in terms of their skills and competence development at all stages of their careers, from initial research training to career development and life-long training. Mobility, both trans-national and intersectoral, recognition of experiences acquired in different sectors and countries, and adequate working conditions are key elements throughout the “Marie Curie Actions”.

The programme will be implemented by systematic investments in people, mainly through a coherent set of “Marie Curie Actions”, addressing researchers in terms of their skills and competence development at all stages of their careers, from initial research training to career development and life-long training. Mobility, both trans-national and intersectoral, recognition of experience **and professional qualifications** acquired in different sectors and countries, and adequate working conditions are key elements throughout the “Marie Curie

Actions”.

Justification

To enable researchers from third countries to take part, it is absolutely essential to take measures to recognise the professional qualifications they have acquired in those countries. The 'Marie Curie Actions' should also promote working conditions which take account not only of gender equality but also the need to combine work and family life.

Amendment 10

Annex, Introduction, paragraph 5

The international dimension, as a fundamental component of human resources in research and development in Europe, will be addressed in terms of career development, as well as of strengthening and enriching international cooperation through researchers and attracting research talent to Europe. The international dimension will be incorporated throughout the “Marie Curie Actions” and in addition will be subject to self-standing actions.

The international dimension, as a fundamental component of human resources in research and development in Europe, will be addressed in terms of career development, as well as of strengthening and enriching international cooperation through researchers and attracting research talent to Europe **by providing appropriate incentives to this end.** The international dimension will be incorporated throughout the “Marie Curie Actions” and in addition will be subject to self-standing actions.

Justification

Experience thus far shows that researchers, in particular, wish to relocate only in circumstances which meet certain fundamental principles, such as their quality of life and the quality of their work.

Amendment 11

Annex, Introduction, paragraph 6

Due account will be taken of the principles of sustainable development and gender equality. The programme aims to ensure gender mainstreaming by encouraging equal opportunities in all “Marie Curie Actions” and by benchmarking gender participation (a target of at least 40% participation by women). In addition, the actions will be designed to ensure that researchers can achieve an appropriate *work/life* balance **and to contribute** to facilitate resuming a research career after a break. Furthermore,

Due account will be taken of the principles of sustainable development and gender equality. The programme aims to ensure gender mainstreaming by encouraging equal opportunities in all “Marie Curie Actions” and by benchmarking gender participation (a target of at least 40% participation by women). In addition, the actions will be designed **to remove obstacles to mobility**, to ensure that researchers can achieve an appropriate *work-life* balance **by making the necessary provision to assist researchers’**

considerations of the ethical, social, legal and wider cultural aspects of the research to be undertaken and its potential applications, as well as socio-economic impacts of scientific and technological development and foresight, will be addressed under this specific programme where relevant.

families and helping to facilitate resuming a research career after a break. Furthermore, considerations of the ethical, social, legal and wider cultural aspects of the research to be undertaken and its potential applications, as well as socio-economic impacts of scientific and technological development and foresight, will be addressed under this specific programme where relevant.

Justification

The importance of social welfare amenities should be highlighted, given that researchers' families are often called upon to deal with practical matters such as health care or children's schooling (kindergartens, nursery schools, etc.).

The Marie Curie actions must be such as to rule out every difficulty that might prevent a researcher from engaging in research activity during a spell abroad.

Amendment 12

Annex, Introduction, paragraph 7

In order to fully exploit Europe's potential for becoming more attractive to researchers, the "Marie Curie Actions" will create concrete synergies with other actions both within the framework of the Community research policy, as well as within actions under other Community policies, e.g. on education, cohesion and employment. Such synergies will also be sought with actions at national and international level.

In order to fully exploit Europe's potential for becoming more attractive to researchers, the "Marie Curie Actions" will create concrete synergies with other actions both within the framework of the Community research policy, as well as within actions under other Community policies, e.g. on education, cohesion and employment. Such synergies will also be sought with actions at ***regional***, national, and international level ***specifically with a view to attaining regional cohesion, taking into account the need for the less developed regions to attract researchers to enable them to pursue their own medium and long-term development strategies.***

Justification

It must be ensured that less developed areas will not be placed at a disadvantage by rising demand for highly qualified researchers.

Amendment 13

Annex, Activities, Initial training of researchers, paragraph 5, bullet points 3 a and 3 b (new)

- *activities to be pursued in cooperation with third countries for the purpose of training early-stage researchers.*
- *the provision of assistance to promote publications, studies and books by researchers aimed at disseminating knowledge and supporting the theoretical and scientific development of researchers.*

Justification

Cooperation with third countries should be encouraged where it could bring added value to the training of our early-stage researchers.

The publication of researchers' theoretical and scientific views, particularly those of young researchers, should be given special support as it would not only promote new views but also create the appropriate conditions for creative, scientific rivalry.

Amendment 14

Annex, Activities, *Lifelong* training and career development, paragraph 2

Researchers addressed under this action should have at least four **years of full-time** research experience; as the action is directed at *life-long* training and career development, it is *however* expected that the researchers will typically have a more senior profile in terms of experience.

Researchers addressed under this action should have at least four **years'** research experience; as the action is directed at *lifelong* training and career development, it is, *however*, expected that the researchers will typically have a more senior profile in terms of experience.

Justification

The criterion of four years' full-time experience might prove unduly restrictive if a researcher, as well as being actively engaged in academic research, were pursuing a separate career in another field.

Amendment 15

Annex, Activities, The international dimension, paragraph 2, point (i)

i) outgoing international fellowships, with mandatory return, for experienced researchers within the framework of *lifelong* training and competence diversification, to acquire new skills and knowledge;

i) ***appropriately funded*** outgoing international fellowships, with mandatory return ***to the European Union***, for experienced researchers within the framework of *lifelong* training and competence diversification, ***and for early-stage researchers***, to ***enable them to*** acquire new skills and knowledge;

Justification

Mobility is often hampered by inadequate funding, whether in the form of research fellowships or of return and reintegration grants, especially when researchers have reached the middle of, or an advanced stage in, their careers. Early-stage researchers should be equally eligible for fellowships, to enable them to develop their skills and come back highly qualified.

Researchers should not be obliged to come back to their country of origin and nowhere else. Instead, they should have the option of adding to their experience before returning to any other Union Member State.

Amendment 16

Annex, Activities, The international dimension, paragraph 2, point (ii)

ii) return and international reintegration grants for experienced researchers after an international experience. Under this action the networking of researchers from Member States and associated countries abroad will also be supported with a view to *keep* them actively informed about and involved in developments in the European Research Area.

ii) ***appropriately funded*** return and international reintegration grants for experienced ***or early-stage*** researchers after an international experience. Under this action the networking of researchers from Member States and associated countries abroad will also be supported with a view to *keeping* them actively informed about and involved in developments in the European Research Area, ***as will incentives to return for researchers based outside Europe.***

Justification

Mobility is often hampered by inadequate funding, whether in the form of research fellowships or of return and reintegration grants, especially when researchers have reached the middle of, or an advanced stage in, their careers. Early-stage researchers should be equally eligible for fellowships, to enable them to develop their skills and come back highly qualified. Expatriate European researchers must be encouraged to return to Europe.

Amendment 17

Annex, Activities, The international dimension, paragraph 3, point (i)

i) incoming international fellowships in order to attract highly qualified third-country researchers to Member States and associated countries, for knowledge enhancement and to build up high-level connections. Researchers from developing countries or from countries with emerging economies may benefit from support for a return phase. Networking of third-country researchers in Member States and associated countries, with a view to structuring and developing their contacts with their regions of origin, will also be supported;

i) incoming international fellowships in order to attract highly qualified third-country researchers to Member States and associated countries, for knowledge enhancement and to build up high-level connections. Researchers from developing countries or from countries with emerging economies may benefit from support for a return phase. Networking of third-country researchers in Member States and associated countries, with a view to structuring and developing their contacts with their regions of origin, will also be supported ***and incentives will be offered to good researchers in all parts of the world to encourage them to settle in Europe;***

Justification

In general, incentives should be offered to encourage researchers to settle in, or return to, Europe.

Amendment 18

Annex, Activities, The international dimension, paragraph 3, point (ii), bullet point -1 a (new)

- ***candidate countries***

Justification

Explicit reference to the special status of candidate countries where partnerships are concerned.

Amendment 19

Annex, Activities, Specific actions

In support of the creation of a genuine

In support of the creation of a genuine

European labour market for researchers, a coherent set of accompanying actions is to be implemented, with a view to removing obstacles to mobility and to enhancing the career perspectives of researchers in Europe. These actions will aim, in particular, at raising *stakeholders* and general public awareness, including through “Marie Curie” awards, at stimulating and supporting action at Member State level and at complementing Community actions.

European labour market for researchers, a coherent set of accompanying actions is to be implemented, with a view to removing obstacles to *professional* mobility, ***especially those related to researchers’ social security and tax affairs, which often act as a disincentive to entering the research field***, and to enhancing the career perspectives of researchers in Europe, ***not least by enabling them to benefit from appropriate financial and salary terms as well as from social security arrangements***. These actions will aim, in particular, at raising *stakeholders’* and general public awareness, including through “Marie Curie” awards, at stimulating and supporting action at Member State level and at complementing Community actions.

Justification

Differences between Member States as regards social security systems and taxation levels can impede mobility, and concerted steps accordingly need to be taken as a matter of urgency. Given that salary is one of the most obvious outward signs of professional recognition, a decent, attractive income must be guaranteed in order to arouse interest in research careers.

PROCEDURE

Title	Specific programme 'People' implementing the 7th Framework Programme (2007-2013) of the European Community for research, technological development and demonstration activities
References	COM(2005)0442 - C6-0383/2005 - 2005/0187(CNS)
Committee responsible	ITRE
Opinion by Date announced in plenary	EMPL 17.11.2005
Enhanced cooperation – date announced in plenary	
Drafts(wo)man Date appointed	Jamila Madeira 12.1.2006
Previous drafts(wo)man	
Discussed in committee	21.3.2006 19.4.2006
Date adopted	20.4.2006
Result of final vote	+: 38 -: 0 0: 0
Members present for the final vote	Jan Andersson, Roselyne Bachelot-Narquin, Jean-Luc Bennahmias, Milan Cabrnoch, Alejandro Cercas, Ole Christensen, Derek Roland Clark, Jean Louis Cottigny, Proinsias De Rossa, Harald Ettl, Carlo Fatuzzo, Joel Hasse Ferreira, Stephen Hughes, Karin Jöns, Jan Jerzy Kułakowski, Sepp Kusstatscher, Bernard Lehideux, Elizabeth Lynne, Thomas Mann, Mario Mantovani, Jan Tadeusz Masiel, Ana Mato Adrover, Maria Matsouka, Marie Panayotopoulos-Cassiotou, Pier Antonio Panzeri, Jacek Protasiewicz, José Albino Silva Peneda, Kathy Sinnott, Jean Spautz
Substitute(s) present for the final vote	Edit Bauer, Mihael Brejc, Françoise Castex, Marian Harkin, Anne E. Jensen, Jamila Madeira, Leopold Józef Rutowicz, Elisabeth Schroedter, Evangelia Tzampazi, Yannick Vaugrenard, Anja Weisgerber
Substitute(s) under Rule 178(2) present for the final vote	
Comments (available in one language only)	

27.3.2006

OPINION OF THE COMMITTEE ON CULTURE AND EDUCATION

for the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy

on the proposal for a Council decision concerning the specific programme 'People' implementing the 7th Framework Programme (2007-2013) of the European Community for research, technological development and demonstration activities (COM(2005)0442 – C6-0383/2005 – 2005/0187(CNS))

Draftsman: Giovanni Berlinguer

SHORT JUSTIFICATION

The Committee on Culture and Education wishes to make the following points:

- Welcomes as a whole the Commission proposal concerning the specific programme '**People**' implementing the 7th Framework Programme (2007-2013), since it continues to build on initiatives under the 6th Framework Programme currently under way. The 'People' programme seeks to encourage young research workers to pursue a scientific career by means of the 'Marie Curie' initiatives, which have without doubt proved to be the most substantial and effective means of developing human resources in the scientific sector.
- Endorses the objective of the programme but calls for specific measures to prevent future shortages of research workers and the fragmentation and duplication of research work and to ensure that research teams do not become isolated, particularly in remote and less favoured areas of the Community. In order to promote the development of this pool of knowledge and encourage in particular the training and mobility of research workers, it is necessary to improve access to research infrastructures.
- Stresses the need for equal opportunities for men and women in the research sector.
- Stresses the need to ensure gender mainstreaming, both by encouraging equal opportunities in connection with all the 'Marie Curie' initiatives and by carrying out a comparative analysis regarding participation by males and females, bearing in mind that female research workers respond positively when encouraged to put themselves forward for the programmes concerned. Since 1999, a Commission awareness campaign seeking gender equality regarding the allocation of 'Marie Curie' grants has helped to

correct the imbalance.

- Notes that the mobility of research workers underpinning measures to encourage partnership arrangements between the academic and industrial sectors is an essential element regarding the acquisition and transfer of knowledge.
- Stresses the need to support initiatives specifically seeking to promote the emergence of a new generation of research workers who must be given training and preparation in pure and applied sciences.
- Reaffirms the need to create a welcoming environment for research workers within their countries of origin by improving their terms of employment and guaranteeing them fair treatment in respect of benefits.
- Stresses that mobility should be considered not as an escape route but as a choice and an opportunity to work abroad so as to acquire and impart knowledge and experience. Greater advantage should be taken at national and European level of the opportunities offered by mobility as a means of sharing knowledge and technological know-how.
- Takes the view that one of the Community's strengths resides in the quality of its research workers and engineers, both as individuals and collectively, and that this is a major resource which Europe must not allow to go to waste.

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 Commission¹

Amendments by Parliament

Amendment 1
Recital 8

(8) 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.

(8) 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 reconfirm the civic and humanistic value of research while respecting ethical and cultural diversity.***

¹ Not yet published in OJ.

Justification

The tension affecting the research sector, sometimes fruitful and sometimes destructive, arising from 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 2
Recital 9

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

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

Amendment 3
Recital 10 a (new)

(10a) 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 4
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 5
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 6
Annex, Introduction, paragraph 1

One of the main competitive edges in science and technology ***is the quantity and quality of*** its human resources. As a prerequisite for increasing Europe's capacity and performance in research and technological development and for consolidating and further developing the European Research Area, the overall strategic aim of this programme is to make Europe more attractive to researchers. This shall be done by pursuing a considerable structuring effect throughout Europe on the organisation, performance and quality of research training, on the active career development of researchers, on knowledge-sharing through researchers between sectors and research organisations, and on strong participation by women in research and development.

Human resources are of great importance for increasingly knowledge-based competitiveness and development in science and technology. As a prerequisite for increasing Europe's capacity and performance in research and technological development and for consolidating and further developing the European Research Area, the overall strategic aim of this programme is to make Europe more attractive to researchers. This shall be done by pursuing a considerable structuring effect throughout Europe on the organisation, performance and quality of research training, on the active career development of researchers, on knowledge-sharing through researchers between sectors and research organisations, and on strong participation by women in research and development.

Amendment 7
Annex, Introduction, paragraph 2

The programme will be implemented by systematic investments in people, mainly through a coherent set of “Marie Curie Actions”, addressing researchers in terms of their skills and competence development at all stages of their careers, from initial research training to career development and *life-long* training. Mobility, both trans-national and intersectoral, recognition of experiences acquired in different sectors and countries, and adequate working conditions are key elements throughout the “Marie Curie Actions”.

The programme will be implemented by systematic investments in people, mainly through a coherent set of “Marie Curie Actions”, addressing researchers in terms of their skills and competence development at all stages of their careers, from initial research training to career development and *life-long* training. Mobility, both trans-national and intersectoral, recognition of experiences acquired in different sectors and countries, and adequate working conditions are key elements throughout the “Marie Curie Actions”. ***Research worker mobility is of fundamental importance for the acquisition and transfer of knowledge. It is necessary to encourage both the mobility of European research workers in other parts of the world and admission and transfer arrangements for third country research workers seeking to enter the European Union.***

Amendment 8
Annex, Introduction, paragraph 3

The “Marie Curie Actions” are open to all domains of research and technological development addressed under the Treaty. Research fields are chosen freely by the applicants. Nevertheless the possibility is retained to target certain activities under the programme, for example regarding scientific disciplines and technological areas, participating regions, types of research organisations and researcher population, in order to respond to the evolution of Europe’s requirements in the area of research training, mobility, career development and knowledge-sharing. This includes the possibility for joint calls with other parts of the Framework Programme.

The “Marie Curie Actions” are open to all domains of research and technological development addressed under the Treaty. Research fields are chosen freely by the applicants. Nevertheless the possibility is retained to target certain activities under the programme, for example regarding scientific disciplines and technological areas, participating regions, types of research organisations and researcher population, in order to respond to the evolution of Europe’s requirements in the area of research training, mobility, career development and knowledge-sharing. ***The ‘Marie Curie’ grant should help to develop fresh potential within research bodies located in less***

favoured areas. This includes the possibility for joint calls with other parts of the Framework Programme.

Amendment 9

Annex, Introduction, paragraph 4

A strong participation by enterprises, including SMEs, is considered a crucial added value for this programme. The enhancement of industry-academia cooperation in terms of research training, career development and knowledge-sharing is encouraged throughout the “Marie Curie Actions”, while a dedicated action is addressing industry-academia pathways and partnerships.

Participation by enterprises, including SMEs, is considered a crucial added value for this programme. The enhancement of industry-academia cooperation in terms of research training, career development and knowledge-sharing is encouraged throughout the “Marie Curie Actions”, while a dedicated action is addressing industry-academia pathways and partnerships. ***It is necessary to conserve the academic freedom of research workers under cooperation arrangements between industry and universities.***

Justification

Partnership arrangements between the academic and business worlds should not be subject to pressures of a political or financial nature.

Amendment 10

Annex, Introduction, paragraph 6

Due account will be taken of the principles of sustainable development and gender equality. The programme aims to ensure gender mainstreaming by encouraging equal opportunities in all “Marie Curie Actions” and by benchmarking gender participation (a target of at least 40% participation by women). In addition, the actions will be designed to ensure that researchers can achieve an appropriate *work-life* balance and to contribute to facilitate resuming a research career after a break. Furthermore, considerations of the ethical, social, legal and wider cultural aspects of the research to be undertaken and its potential applications, as well as socio-economic impacts of

Due account will be taken of the principles of sustainable development and gender equality. The programme aims to ensure gender mainstreaming by encouraging equal opportunities in all “Marie Curie Actions” and by benchmarking gender participation (a target of at least 40% participation by women). ***Measures will be taken to introduce more effective monitoring arrangements concerning gender equality and related initiatives to promote equal opportunities for men and women within the programme as a whole. Financial assistance in the form of ‘Marie Curie’ grants to female research workers is a major factor, particularly for those***

scientific and technological development and foresight, will be addressed under this specific programme where relevant.

returning to the sector following absence due to maternity. In addition, the actions will be designed to ensure that researchers can achieve an appropriate *work-life* balance and to contribute to facilitate resuming a research career after a break. Furthermore, considerations of the ethical, social, legal and wider cultural aspects of the research to be undertaken and its potential applications, as well as socio-economic impacts of scientific and technological development and foresight, will be addressed under this specific programme where relevant.

Justification

An innovative strategy is necessary to encourage female research workers. A research career should not be considered as incompatible with family obligations. It is necessary to promote good practices such as flexible working hours.

Amendment 11

Annex, Introduction, paragraph 8a (new)

It will be essential to strengthen links between research and the university reform and convergence process (Bologna Process) so as to encourage the mobility of research workers and ensure that it does not lead to a system designed solely to ensure the rapid completion of university studies at the expense of experience abroad.

Amendment 12

Annex, section on 'The international dimension', paragraph 2, point i)

i) outgoing international fellowships, ***with mandatory*** return, for experienced researchers within the framework of *life-long* training and competence diversification, to acquire new skills and knowledge;

i) outgoing international fellowships, ***accompanied by measures designed to remove obstacles to a return to the country of origin and to guarantee continuity of work, or, if, and only if, this condition has been accepted beforehand by the party concerned, with mandatory repayment in the case of a long-term stay abroad,*** for experienced researchers within the

framework of *life-long* training and competence diversification, to acquire new skills and knowledge;

Justification

A researcher (or any other person) cannot legally be obliged to return to his/her country of origin.

Amendment 13

Annex, Activities, Specific Actions

In support of the creation of a genuine European labour market for researchers, a coherent set of accompanying actions is to be implemented, with a view to removing obstacles to mobility and to enhancing the career perspectives of researchers in Europe. These actions will aim, in particular, at raising *stakeholders'* and general public awareness, including through “Marie Curie” awards, at stimulating and supporting action at Member State level and at complementing Community actions.

In support of the creation of a genuine European labour market for researchers, a coherent set of accompanying actions is to be implemented, with a view to removing obstacles to mobility and to enhancing the career perspectives of researchers in Europe. These actions will aim, in particular, at raising *stakeholders'* and general public awareness, including through “Marie Curie” awards, at stimulating and supporting action at Member State level and at complementing Community actions. ***All ‘Marie Curie’ initiatives must guarantee equal opportunities and eliminate all obstacles facing disabled research workers.***

PROCEDURAL PAGE

Title	Specific programme ‘People’ implementing the 7th Framework Programme (2007-2013) of the European Community for research, technological development and demonstration activities
References	COM(2005)0442 – C6-0383/2005 – 2005/0187(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 4.10.2005
Previous drafts(wo)man	
Discussed in committee	23.1.2006 23.2.2006 0.0.0000
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)	...

22.3.2006

OPINION OF THE COMMITTEE ON WOMEN'S RIGHTS AND GENDER EQUALITY

for the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy

on the proposal for a Council decision concerning the specific programme "People" implementing the 7th Framework Programme (2007-2013) of the European Community for research, technological development and demonstration activities (COM(2005)0442 – C6-0383/2005 – 2005/0187(CNS))

Draftswoman: Amalia Sartori

SHORT JUSTIFICATION

The European Community's Seventh Framework Programme (2007-2013) for research, technological development and demonstration activities is part of an integrated human resources strategy for research and development in the European Union.

With regard to the principle of equality between women and men, in this opinion the European Parliament's Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality draws attention to the underused potential of women in scientific disciplines and calls for more specific measures to promote their participation. In most EU Member States, the number of women graduates is proportionally higher than for men. Despite this success in terms of education, the labour market in the scientific field is still dominated by men, while women are in a minority in the sciences and in decision-making bodies concerned with scientific issues. The framework programme should therefore encourage more people to study science, above all by persuading women to go into science and technology, and should foster the participation of women on an equal footing in all scientific disciplines and at all levels.

Consequently, the research activities carried out under this programme should respect fundamental ethical principles, including those enshrined in the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, for instance the right to the integrity of the person, equality between men and women and reconciling work and family life.

The framework programme is divided into four types of activities. One of these, entitled 'People', supports the training and career development of individual researchers. We take the view that it is of the utmost importance to ensure gender mainstreaming in the 'People' programme, for example by promoting new undertakings and innovation by women entrepreneurs; it is also vital that such initiatives should be properly reflected in the financial framework.

AMENDMENTS

The Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality calls on the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following amendments in its report:

Draft legislative resolution

Text proposed by the Commission¹

Amendments by Parliament

Amendment 1

Recital 2

(2) The Framework Programme is structured in four types of activities: trans-national cooperation on policy-defined themes (“Cooperation”), investigator-driven research based on the initiative of the research community (“Ideas”), support of training and career development of researchers (“People”), and support of research capacities (“Capacities”). Activities under “People” as regards indirect actions should be implemented by this specific programme.

Does not apply to the English version - the term 'researcher' is gender neutral in English.

Amendment 2

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 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, **employment, equal opportunities and equal treatment**, competitiveness and innovation, industry, health, consumer protection, employment, energy, transport and environment.

¹ Not yet published in OJ.

Justification

Equal opportunities and equal treatment are fundamental Community principles which must be implemented in the interests of achieving the Lisbon objectives, to which the framework programme should contribute.

Amendment 3
Recital 5

(5) Innovation and SME-related activities supported under this Framework Programme should be complementary to those undertaken under the framework programme for Competitiveness and Innovation.

(5) Innovation and SME-related activities supported under this Framework Programme should be complementary to those undertaken under the framework programme for Competitiveness and Innovation ***and should help to support small family enterprises and SMEs run by women.***

Justification

Difficulties in accessing appropriate forms of financing can be an obstacle to participation in research, technological development and demonstration activities, particularly for SMEs, small family enterprises and small enterprises run by women.

Amendment 4
Recital 7

(7) The international dimension is a fundamental component of human resources in research and development in Europe. As provided for under Article 170 of the Treaty, this specific programme is open to the participation of countries having concluded the necessary agreements to this effect, and is also open on the project level, and on the basis of mutual benefit, to the participation of entities from third countries and of international organisations for scientific cooperation. Moreover, all actions, as well

(7) The international dimension is a fundamental component of human resources in research and development in Europe. As provided for under Article 170 of the Treaty, this specific programme is open to the participation of countries having concluded the necessary agreements to this effect, and is also open on the project level, and on the basis of mutual benefit, to the participation of entities from third countries and of international organisations for scientific cooperation. Moreover, all actions, as well

as dedicated actions in this specific programme are open to participation of individual researchers from third countries.

as dedicated actions in this specific programme are open, ***without discrimination of any kind***, to participation of individual researchers from third countries. ***To that effect, efforts should be made to speed up mutual recognition of professional qualifications acquired in third countries.***

Justification

Participation in the programme should not be subject to any form of discrimination. Moreover, in order to attract foreign researchers it is essential to speed up the mutual recognition of qualifications acquired in third countries so as to fully utilise the human potential in research and technology in Europe and avoid hindering the free movement of researchers within the European Union.

Amendment 5 Recital 8

(8) 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.

(8) 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, ***such as the right to the integrity of the person, equality between men and women and the possibility of reconciling family and professional life.***

Justification

As the Commission proposal plans to focus specifically on gender mainstreaming, it should be made clear where appropriate that the activities apply to both women and men.

Amendment 6 Recital 9 a (new)

(9a) The Framework Programme should encourage people to study science, above all by persuading women to go into science

and technology.

Justification

It is important to take action at the different levels of research (academic study, career, etc) in order to achieve a real policy of equal access and equal opportunity in the research sector. This amendment is also in line with the new Recital 13a proposed by the draftsman.

Amendment 7
Recital 13

(13) In the implementation of this programme adequate attention needs to be paid to **gender mainstreaming**, as well as to, inter alia, the working conditions, transparency of recruitment processes, and career development as regards the researchers recruited on projects and programmes funded under the actions of this programme, for which the Commission Recommendation of 11 March 2005 on the European Charter for Researchers and on a Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers offers a reference framework.

(13) In the implementation of this programme adequate attention needs to be paid to **equal treatment and equal opportunities for men and women, equal rights, with appropriate funding**, as well as to, inter alia, working conditions, **particularly with a view to enabling reconciliation of work and family life**, transparency **and non-discrimination in** recruitment processes, and career development as regards researchers recruited on projects and programmes funded under the actions of this programme, for which the Commission Recommendation of 11 March 2005 on the European Charter for Researchers and on a Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers offers a reference framework, **paying particular attention to the needs of disabled researchers**.

Justification

As the Commission proposal plans to give particular consideration to gender mainstreaming, it should be made clear, where necessary and with appropriate terminology, that the activities apply to both women and men and that this principle will have specific consequences in terms of funding. Furthermore, the disabled should enjoy equal access to all activities and special facilities should be provided for them to this end. Consideration must also be given in the implementation of the programme to the need to reconcile work and family life, as well as to respect for the principle of non-discrimination in the selection of researchers.

Amendment 8
Recital 13 a (new)

(13a) In most EU countries the number of women graduates is proportionally higher than for men. However, the labour market in science is dominated by men. The gap between women and men aged 20-24 attaining higher education was 5 percentage points in the EU 2004¹. It is therefore necessary to boost the presence and women in the research sector, with gender mainstreaming except for specific reasons.

¹Report from the Commission to the Council, the European Parliament, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions on equality between women and men, 2005 (COM(2005)0044).

Justification

Measures should be taken to promote the representation of women in the research sector at all levels given that in some areas it is still not possible to apply a policy of equal opportunities because of the small percentage of women.

Amendment 9
Recital 14

(14) This programme is in conformity with and underpins the further development and implementation of the integrated strategy on human resources in research and development in Europe on the basis of the “Mobility Strategy for the ERA” and the “Researchers in the ERA: one profession, multiple careers”, as well as takes into account the Council conclusions on human resources in R&D of 18 April 2005.

(14) This programme is in conformity with and underpins the further development and implementation of the integrated strategy on human resources in research and development in Europe on the basis of the “Mobility Strategy for the ERA”, ***which, in relation to the principle of equality between men and women, draws specific attention to the underused potential of women in scientific careers in Europe***, and the “Researchers in the ERA: one profession, multiple careers”, as well as takes into account the Council conclusions on human resources in R&D of 18 April 2005

Justification

This amendment seeks to focus the programme on rectifying the shortcomings identified in the Mobility Strategy for the ERA.

Amendment 10 Article 2, subparagraph 1

The Specific Programme shall support the activities for “People”, strengthening, quantitatively and qualitatively, the human potential in research and technology in Europe. The activities supporting training and career development of researchers, referred to as “Marie Curie Actions”, will be reinforced with a better focus on the key aspects of skills and career development and strengthened links with national systems.

The Specific Programme shall support the activities for “People”, ***encouraging people to take up a career as a researcher and*** strengthening, quantitatively and qualitatively, the human, ***and especially female***, potential in research and technology in Europe, ***while ensuring equal access for men and women and paying special attention to the needs of disabled researchers***. The activities supporting training and career development of researchers, referred to as “Marie Curie Actions”, will be reinforced with a better focus on the key aspects of skills and career development and strengthened links with national systems.

Amendment 11 Article 4, paragraph 1

1. All research activities carried out under the Specific Programme shall be carried out in compliance with fundamental ethical principles.

1. All research activities carried out under the Specific Programme shall be carried out in compliance with fundamental ethical principles. ***Research shall receive financial support only where it is in conformity with human rights, in particular human dignity.***

Amendment 12 Article 4, paragraph 3, 1st indent

- research activities that are prohibited in ***all*** Member States

- research activities that are prohibited in Member States ***on the basis of fundamental***

*considerations relating to human rights
and constitutional principles*

Amendment 13
Article 6, paragraph 3

3. The work programme will specify the criteria on which proposals for indirect actions under the funding schemes shall be evaluated and projects selected. The criteria will be those assessing qualitative aspects of the proposers (researchers/organisations) and their potential for further progression, including where appropriate their implementing capacity; the quality of the proposed activity in scientific training and/or transfer of knowledge terms; the Community added value and the structuring effect of the proposed activity in terms of contribution to the objectives of the specific programme and Work Programme. These criteria and any weightings and thresholds may be further specified or complemented in the work programme.

3. The work programme will specify the criteria on which proposals for indirect actions under the funding schemes shall be evaluated and projects selected. The criteria will be those assessing qualitative aspects of the proposers (researchers/organisations) and their potential for further progression, including where appropriate their implementing capacity; the quality of the proposed activity in scientific training and/or transfer of knowledge terms; the Community added value and the structuring effect of the proposed activity in terms of contribution to the objectives of the specific programme and Work Programme ***and the implementation of the principle of equal treatment and equal opportunities for women and men.*** These criteria and any weightings and thresholds may be further specified or complemented in the work programme.

Justification

Consistent with Recital 13 of the Commission proposal using appropriate terminology.

Amendment 14
Annex, Introduction, paragraph 1

One of the main competitive edges in science and technology is the quantity and quality of its human resources. As a prerequisite for increasing Europe's capacity and performance in research and technological development and for consolidating and further developing the

One of the main competitive edges in science and technology is the quantity and quality of its human resources. As a prerequisite for increasing Europe's capacity and performance in research and technological development and for consolidating and further developing the

European Research Area, the overall strategic aim of this programme is to make Europe more attractive to researchers. This shall be done by pursuing a considerable structuring effect throughout Europe on the organisation, performance and quality of research training, on the active career development of researchers, on knowledge-sharing through researchers between sectors and research organisations, and on strong participation by women in research and development.

European Research Area, the overall strategic aim of this programme is to make Europe more attractive to researchers. This shall be done by pursuing a considerable structuring effect throughout Europe on the organisation, performance and quality of research training, on knowledge-sharing through researchers between sectors and research organisations, ***on the active career development of researchers, with particular reference to*** participation by women in research and development ***while promoting the reconciliation of work and family life.***

Justification

As the Commission proposal plans to focus specifically on gender mainstreaming, it should be made clear where appropriate that the activities apply to both women and men. In addition, efforts should be made to create the conditions that will enable women to play a more active part in the world of research, while enjoying scope for reconciling work and family life.

Amendment 15 Annex, Introduction, paragraph 2

The programme will be implemented by systematic investments in people, mainly through a coherent set of 'Marie Curie Actions', addressing researchers in terms of their skills and competence development at all stages of their careers, from initial research training to career development and life-long training. Mobility, both trans-national and intersectoral, recognition of experiences acquired in different sectors and countries, and adequate working conditions are key elements throughout the 'Marie Curie Actions'.

The programme will be implemented by systematic investments in people, mainly through a coherent set of 'Marie Curie Actions', addressing researchers in terms of their skills and competence development at all stages of their careers, from initial research training to career development and life-long training. Mobility, both trans-national and intersectoral, recognition of experiences ***and qualifications*** acquired in different sectors and countries, and adequate working conditions are key elements throughout the 'Marie Curie Actions', ***taking account of the principle of gender equality and the need for special facilities for disabled researchers.***

Or. pl

Justification

As the Commission proposal plans to focus specifically on gender mainstreaming, it should be made clear where appropriate that the activities apply to both women and men. Moreover, the disabled should enjoy equal access to all activities and special facilities should be provided for them to this end. To enable researchers from third countries to participate it is essential to take measures ensuring recognition of qualifications acquired in those countries. In addition, 'Marie Curie Actions' should encourage working conditions to be implemented which take into account not only gender equality but also the need to reconcile work and family life.

Amendment 16

Annex, Introduction, paragraph 4

A strong participation by enterprises, including SMEs, is considered a crucial added value for this programme. The enhancement of industry-academia cooperation in terms of research training, career development and knowledge-sharing is encouraged throughout the "Marie Curie Actions", while a dedicated action is addressing industry-academia pathways and partnerships.

A strong participation by enterprises, including SMEs, is considered a crucial added value for this programme. The enhancement of industry-academia cooperation in terms of research training, career development and knowledge-sharing is encouraged throughout the "Marie Curie Actions", while a dedicated action is addressing industry-academia pathways and partnerships, ***encouraging the setting up of new undertakings and innovations by women entrepreneurs.***

Justification

The digital divide is particularly marked in the small-business sector, which does not help the competitiveness of small and medium-sized businesses in which many women are involved. Specific attention should be paid to this aspect when implementing the programme.

Amendment 17

Annex, Introduction, paragraph 5

The international dimension, as a fundamental component of human resources in research and development in Europe, will be addressed in terms of career development, as well as of strengthening and enriching international cooperation through researchers and attracting research talent to Europe. The international dimension will be

The international dimension, as a fundamental component of human resources in research and development in Europe, will be addressed in terms of career development, ***for both women and men,*** as well as of strengthening and enriching international cooperation through researchers and attracting research talent to

incorporated throughout the “Marie Curie Actions” and in addition will be subject to self-standing actions.

Europe. The international dimension will be incorporated throughout the “Marie Curie Actions” and in addition will be subject to self-standing actions.

Justification

As the Commission proposal plans to focus specifically on gender mainstreaming, it should be made clear where appropriate that the activities apply to both women and men.

Amendment 18 Annex, Introduction, paragraph 6

Due account will be taken of the principles of sustainable development and gender equality. The programme aims to ensure gender mainstreaming by encouraging equal opportunities in all ‘Marie Curie Actions’ and by benchmarking gender participation (a target of at least 40% participation by women). In addition, the actions will be designed to ensure that researchers can achieve an appropriate work/life balance and to contribute to facilitate resuming a research career after a break. Furthermore, considerations of the ethical, social, legal and wider cultural aspects of the research to be undertaken and its potential applications, as well as socio-economic impacts of scientific and technological development and foresight, will be addressed under this specific programme where relevant.

Due account will be taken of the principles of sustainable development and gender equality. The programme aims to ensure gender mainstreaming by encouraging equal opportunities in all ‘Marie Curie Actions’ and by benchmarking gender participation (a target of at least 40% participation by women). In addition, the actions will be designed to ensure that researchers, ***particularly women***, can achieve an appropriate balance ***between work and family life*** and to contribute to facilitate resuming a research career after a break, ***particularly after a period of maternity leave or parental leave, also taking particular account of the importance of demographic change***. Furthermore, considerations of the ethical, social, legal and wider cultural aspects of the research to be undertaken and its potential applications, as well as socio-economic impacts of scientific and technological development and foresight, will be addressed under this specific programme where relevant.

Justification

Women do not enjoy the same promotion opportunities as men in the field of research. Measures therefore need to be adopted to allow them to resume their careers after a break, particularly after a period of parental or maternity leave.

Amendment 19
Annex, Introduction, paragraph 7

In order to fully exploit Europe's potential for becoming more attractive to researchers, the 'Marie Curie Actions' will create concrete synergies with **other** actions both within the framework of the Community research policy, as well as within actions under other Community policies, **e.g. on** education, cohesion and employment. Such synergies will also be sought with actions at national and international level.

In order to fully exploit Europe's potential for becoming more attractive to researchers, the 'Marie Curie Actions' will create concrete synergies with actions both within the framework of the Community research policy, as well as within actions under other Community policies, **making sure to include gender mainstreaming in fields such as** education, cohesion and employment. Such synergies will also be sought with actions at national and international level.

Justification

As the Commission proposal plans to focus specifically on gender mainstreaming, it should be made clear where appropriate that the activities apply to both women and men.

Amendment 20
Annex, Ethical aspects, paragraph 1

During the implementation of this specific programme and in the research activities arising from it, fundamental ethical principles are to be respected. These include, inter alia, the principles reflected in the Charter of fundamental Rights of the EU, including the following: protection of human dignity and human life, protection of personal data and privacy, as well as animals and the environment in accordance with Community law and the latest versions of relevant international conventions, guidelines and codes of conduct, e.g. the Helsinki Declaration, the Convention of the Council of Europe on Human Rights and Biomedicine signed in Oviedo on 4 April

During the implementation of this specific programme and in the research activities arising from it, fundamental ethical principles are to be respected. These include, inter alia, the principles reflected in the Charter of fundamental Rights of the EU, including the following: protection of human dignity and human life, protection of personal data and privacy, as well as animals and the environment in accordance with Community law and the latest versions of relevant international conventions, guidelines and codes of conduct, e.g. the Helsinki Declaration, the Convention of the Council of Europe on Human Rights and Biomedicine signed in Oviedo on 4 April

1997 and its Additional Protocols, the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Universal Declaration on the human genome and human rights adopted by UNESCO, UN Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention (BTWC), International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, and the relevant World Health Organisation (WHO) resolutions.

1997 and its Additional Protocols, the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Universal Declaration on the human genome and human rights adopted by UNESCO, ***UN General Assembly resolution 59/280 of 8 March 2005***, UN Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention (BTWC), International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, and the relevant World Health Organisation (WHO) resolutions.

Amendment 21

Annex, Ethical aspects, paragraph 3

In compliance with the principle of subsidiarity and the diversity of approaches existing in Europe, participants in research projects must conform to current legislation, regulations and ethical rules in the countries where the research will be carried out. In any case, national provisions apply and no research forbidden in any given Member State or other country will be supported by Community funding to be carried out in that Member State or country.

In compliance with the principle of subsidiarity and the diversity of approaches existing in Europe, participants in research projects must conform to current legislation, regulations and ethical rules in the countries where the research will be carried out. In any case, national provisions apply and no research forbidden in any given Member State or other country will be supported by Community funding to be carried out in that Member State or country. ***As a matter of principle, research shall receive financial support from the Community only where it is in conformity with human rights, in particular human dignity.***

Amendment 22

Annex, Activities, Initial training of researchers, paragraph 1

This action supports the initial training of researchers, typically directed at the first four years of researchers' careers, plus up to one additional year if necessary for the completion of the initial training. Through a trans-national networking mechanism, aimed at structuring a substantial share of the high-quality initial research training capacity throughout Member States and associated

This action supports the initial training of researchers, typically directed at the first four years of researchers' careers, plus up to one additional year if necessary for the completion of the initial training, ***ensuring a fair gender balance in participation.*** Through a trans-national networking mechanism, aimed at structuring a substantial share of the high-quality initial

countries in both public and private sectors, the action aims to improve researchers' career perspectives in both sectors, thereby also enhancing the attraction of young researchers to research careers.

research training capacity throughout Member States and associated countries in both public and private sectors, the action aims to improve researchers' career perspectives in both sectors, thereby also enhancing the attraction of young researchers, **and of women in particular**, to research careers.

Justification

As the Commission proposal plans to focus specifically on gender mainstreaming, it should be made clear where appropriate that the activities apply to both women and men.

Amendment 23

Annex, Activities, Life-long training and career development, paragraph 1

This action targets experienced researchers at different stages of their careers, by enhancing their individual competence diversification in terms of acquisition of multi- or interdisciplinary skills or the undertaking of inter-sectoral experiences. The aim is to support researchers in attaining and/or strengthening a leading independent position, e.g. principal investigator, professor or other senior position in education or enterprise. It will also assist researchers to resume a career in research after a break or to (re)integrate researchers into a research career in Member States and associated countries, including in their country of origin, after a mobility experience.

This action targets experienced researchers at different stages of their careers, by enhancing their individual competence diversification in terms of acquisition of multi- or interdisciplinary skills or the undertaking of inter-sectoral experiences. The aim is to support researchers in attaining and/or strengthening a leading independent position, e.g. principal investigator, professor or other senior position in education or enterprise. It will also assist researchers to resume a career in research after a break, **particularly after a period of maternity leave or parental leave**, or to (re)integrate researchers into a research career in Member States and associated countries, including in their country of origin, after a mobility experience, **while promoting better reconciliation of work and family life to take account of, inter alia, demographic change. To that end, mutual recognition of qualifications acquired in the European Union and of those acquired in third countries will need to be improved.**

Justification

As the Commission proposal plans to focus specifically on gender mainstreaming, it should be made clear where appropriate that the activities apply to both women and men.

Amendment 24
Annex, Activities, Lifelong training and career development,
Paragraph 2

Researchers addressed under this action should have **at least** four years of **full-time** research experience; as the action is directed at life-long training and career development, it is however expected that the researchers will typically have a more senior profile in terms of experience.

Researchers addressed under this action should have **in total** four years of research experience; as the action is directed at life-long training and career development, it is however expected that the researchers will typically have a more senior profile in terms of experience.

Justification

The experience possessed by the researchers in question should be four years in total and take into account all previous experience before and after parental leave in the case of women researchers.

Amendment 25
Annex, Activities, specific actions, paragraph 1

In support of the creation of a genuine European labour market for researchers, a coherent set of accompanying actions is to be implemented, with a view to removing obstacles to mobility and to enhancing the career perspectives of researchers in Europe. These actions will aim, in particular, at raising stakeholders and general public awareness, including through 'Marie Curie' awards, at stimulating and supporting action at Member State level and at complementing Community actions.

In support of the creation of a genuine European labour market for researchers, a coherent set of accompanying actions is to be implemented, with a view to removing obstacles to mobility and to enhancing the career perspectives of researchers in Europe, **making it easier to reconcile work and family life**. These actions will aim, in particular, at raising stakeholders and general public awareness, including through 'Marie Curie' awards, at stimulating and supporting action at Member State level and at complementing Community actions.

Justification

Efforts should be made to create the conditions that will enable women to play a more active part in the world of research, while enjoying scope for reconciling work and family life.

PROCEDURE

Title	Proposal for a Council decision concerning the specific programme “People” implementing the 7th Framework Programme (2007-2013) of the European Community for research, technological development and demonstration activities		
Procedure number	(COM(2005)0442 – C6-0383/2005 – 2005/0187(CNS))		
Committee responsible	ITRE		
Opinion by Date announced in plenary	FEMM 17.11.2005		
Enhanced cooperation – date announced in plenary			
Drafts(wo)man Date appointed	Amelia Sartori 30.11.2005		
Previous drafts(wo)man			
Discussed in committee	24.1.2006	0.0.0000	0.0.0000
Date adopted	23.3.2006		
Result of final vote	+: -: 0:	19 0 0	
Members present for the final vote	Edit Bauer, Hiltrud Breyer, Edite Estrela, Ilda Figueiredo, Věra Flasarová, Lissy Gröner, Zita Gurmai, María Esther Herranz García, Rodi Kratsa-Tsagaropoulou, Pia Elda Locatelli, Astrid Lulling, Angelika Niebler, Siiri Oviir, Teresa Riera Madurell, Amalia Sartori, Britta Thomsen, Corien Wortmann-Kool, Anna Záborská		
Substitute(s) present for the final vote	Lidia Joanna Geringer de Oedenberg		
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 'People' implementing the 7th Framework Programme (2007-2013) of the European Community for research, technological development and demonstration activities				
References	COM(2005)0442 – C6-0383/2005 – 2005/0187(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	FEMM 17.11.2005	
Not delivering opinion(s) Date of decision					
Enhanced cooperation Date announced in plenary					
Rapporteur(s) Date appointed	Umberto Pirilli 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	30.5.2006	20.6.2006
	13.7.2006				
Date adopted	3.10.2006				
Result of final vote	+: 45 –: 0 0: 0				
Members present for the final vote	Šarūnas Birutis, Philippe Busquin, Jerzy Buzek, Jorgo Chatzimarkakis, Giles Chichester, Gianni De Michelis, Den Dover, Nicole Fontaine, Adam Gierek, Umberto Guidoni, András Gyürk, David Hammerstein Mintz, Rebecca Harms, Erna Hennicot-Schoepges, Ján Hudacký, Romana Jordan Cizelj, Werner Langen, Anne Laperrouze, Vincenzo Lavarra, Pia Elda Locatelli, Eugenijus Maldeikis, Eluned Morgan, Reino Paasilinna, Umberto Pirilli, Miloslav Ransdorf, Vladimír Remek, Teresa Riera Madurell, Mechtild Rothe, Paul Rübig, Andres Tarand, Patrizia Toia, Catherine Trautmann, Claude Turmes, Nikolaos Vakalis, Alejo Vidal-Quadras Roca, Dominique Vlasto				
Substitute(s) present for the final vote	Alexander Alvaro, Jean-Pierre Audy, María del Pilar Ayuso González, Peter Liese, Erika Mann, Lambert van Nistelrooij, Vittorio Prodi, John Purvis				

Substitute(s) under Rule 178(2) present for the final vote	Iles Braghetto
Date tabled	16.10.2006
Comments (available in one language only)	...