

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2004



2009

Committee on Budgets

2005/0185(CNS)

22.6.2006

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
“Cooperation” implementing the Seventh Framework Programme (2007-2013)
of the European Community for research, technological development and
demonstration activities
(COM(2005)0440 – C6-0381/2005 – 2005/0185(CNS))

Draftswoman: Marilisa Xenogiannakopoulou

PA_Leg

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 **Cooperation specific programme** is designed to gain leadership in key scientific and technological areas by supporting cooperation between universities, industry, research centres and public authorities across the European Union as well as the rest of the world. Previous framework programmes demonstrate the impact of such actions in restructuring research in Europe and pooling and leveraging resources.

The 7th Framework Programme will distribute these impacts more widely and the nine themes proposed correspond to the major fields of progress in knowledge and technology where excellent research must be strengthened to address European social, economic, public health, environmental and industrial challenges.

There are important novelties in this specific programme which require specific consideration for the implementation:

- Responding to the need for ambitious pan-European public private partnerships to accelerate the development of major technologies, through the launch of **Joint Technology Initiatives**;
- A strengthened approach to the coordinating national research programmes (**ERA-NET** scheme);
- Initiatives in the fields of ambient assisted living, Baltic Sea research and metrology (so called **Article 169 initiatives**);
- **international cooperation** (through policy dialogues and networks with different regions of partner countries);
- A flexible response to **emerging needs** and **unforeseen policy needs**.

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)

¹ OJ C 49, 28.2.2006, p. 37.

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)

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

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 “Cooperation” implementing the Seventh Framework Programme (2007-2013) of the European Community for research, technological development and demonstration activities
References	COM(2005)0440 – C6-0381/2005 – 2005/0185(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)	...