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Committee on Budgets

2005/0190(CNS)

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 implementing the seventh Framework Programme (2007-2011) of the European Atomic Energy Community (Euratom) for nuclear research and training activities
(COM(2005)0445 – C6-0386/2005 – 2005/0190(CNS))

Draftswoman: Marilisa Xenogiannakopoulou

PA_Leg

SHORT JUSTIFICATION

1. Main elements of the proposal

The present specific programme proposal covers the same period as the Framework Programme, 2007-2011, which in turn is based on Article 7 of the Euratom Treaty. In accordance with this Article, second paragraph, research programmes are drawn up for a period of not more than five years. Hence, the present proposal is not for the same duration as the EC specific programmes.

The Commission proposes that, unless extenuating circumstances arise, these Specific Euratom Programmes will be renewed for the period 2012-2013, in accordance with the foreseen legislative procedure.

The “legislative financial statement” attached to this Decision sets out the budgetary implications and the human and administrative resources, and also provides indicative figures for the period 2012-2013.

The Commission intends to set up an executive agency which will be entrusted with certain tasks required to implement the specific programme.

This specific programme covers the following two thematic priorities:

- **Fusion energy research:** to develop the knowledge base for, and to realise ITER as the major step towards, the creation of prototype reactors for power stations that are safe, sustainable, environmentally responsible and economically viable. This thematic priority includes the following areas of activity:
 - The realisation of ITER
 - R&D in preparation of ITER operation
 - Technology activities in preparation of DEMO
 - R&D activities for the longer term
 - Human resources, education and training
 - Infrastructures
 - Responding to emerging and unforeseen policy needs.

- **Nuclear fission and radiation protection:** to promote the safe use and exploitation of nuclear fission and other uses of radiation in industry and medicine. This thematic priority includes the following areas of activity:
 - Management of radioactive waste
 - Reactor systems
 - Radiation protection
 - Support for and access to research infrastructures
 - Human resources and training including mobility

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

- A strengthened approach to the coordinating of national research programmes in the field of nuclear fission and radiation protection.
- The joint implementation of ITER in an international framework, the establishment of

- a Euratom Joint Undertaking for ITER, and a further strengthening of the co-ordination of the integrated European fusion energy research activities.
- A more targeted approach to international cooperation within each theme is foreseen with specific cooperation actions to be identified in the work programmes in line with the strategic approach for international cooperation.
 - A component to allow a flexible response to emerging needs and unforeseen policy needs will be supported under each of the themes and the implementation will build on the experience of the Scientific Support for Policy and New and Emerging Science and Technology schemes introduced in the 6th Framework Programme, as well as the Future and Emerging Technology scheme in the ICT area.

During the lifetime of this specific programme, and the foreseen extension to 2013, opportunities for the creation of effective joint undertakings may arise, for example in the field of radioactive waste management. The Commission services will submit proposals for the creation of such undertakings to Council at the appropriate time.

2. Recommendations by the draftsman

For reasons of coherence, the draftsman 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 draftsman 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.

¹ OJ C 49, 28.2.2006, p. 37.

Amendment 4
Article 3, paragraph 1 c (new)

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

Amendment 5
Article 5 a (new)

Article 5a

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

Justification

This procedure was introduced as a result of an agreement between the Committee on Budgets and the Commission in October 1999. The rapporteur 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 7, paragraph 1 a (new)

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 implementing the seventh Framework Programme (2007-2011) of the European Atomic Energy Community (Euratom) for nuclear research and training activities
References	COM(2005)0445 – C6-0386/2005 – 2005/0190(CNS)
Committee responsible	ITRE
Opinion by Date announced in plenary	BUDG 17.11.2005
Enhanced cooperation – date announced in plenary	
Drafts(wo)man Date appointed	Marilisa Xenogiannakopoulou 20.9.2004
Previous drafts(wo)man	
Discussed in committee	22.6.2006
Date adopted	22.6.2006
Result of final vote	+: 14 –: 2 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)	...