

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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2009

Committee on Culture and Education

2005/0185(CNS)

21.3.2006

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 "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))

Draftsman: Giovanni Berlinguer

PA_Leg

SHORT JUSTIFICATION

1. The specific programme is designed to promote and support the excellence of European research through closer cooperation between research centres, universities, public bodies and industry, including SMEs. Cooperation and the exchange of information and knowledge are vital in order to ensure that research enjoys the creativity, freedom and development that it needs to make discoveries. It is important that those projects which envisage cooperation between industry and universities or research centres should not be too emphatically profit oriented. Universities must be guaranteed autonomy in identifying the priorities for research; such autonomy must not be subordinated to the demands of industry.
2. Basic research, which is often neglected by firms – but without which there can be no applied research – must be encouraged, in part through partnerships with industry and SMEs, and must be accessible and available to the public at large.
3. While acknowledging the fact that patents can make investment in research possible, and that intellectual property rights can help to fund research, it is absolutely essential to avoid monopolies in certain sectors, restrict catch-all patents, and curtail the period during which a discovery is under patent. There is also a need for Europe to commit itself internationally to setting limits on what is patentable (living organisms, DNA and the human genome). With regard to pharmacology, patents and prices should not stand in the way of fairer access to treatment and, in the case of serious epidemics it should be possible to suspend them, as has already been decided for diseases such as Aids, on the basis of WTO agreements.
4. Research funded under the Seventh Framework Programme and research carried out in universities or with public funding should be accessible and be disseminated, and should entail the sharing of knowledge and information. European research should pursue the goals of enhancing knowledge and the common good.
5. Where the projects for international cooperation envisaged by the Seventh Framework Programme are concerned, the added value resulting from the exchange of experiences and reciprocal knowledge and the launching and running of joint research projects should be the principal criteria underpinning scientific cooperation.
6. The new information and communication technologies can be an extraordinary tool for fostering the right to communicate, to participate and to access and receive information. The ICT projects under the Seventh Framework Programme should help to reduce the digital divide associated with different opportunities for access – differing between and within countries, and between North and South – and with the technologies and the knowledge which enables them to be used.

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 into its report:

Text proposed by the Commission ¹	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 <i>with</i> 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 <i>of</i> those on structural funds, agriculture, education, training, <i>culture</i> , competitiveness and innovation, industry, health, consumer protection, employment, energy, transport and environment.
Amendment 2 Recital 8	
(8) As provided for under Article 170 of the Treaty, the Community has concluded a number of international agreements in the field of research and efforts should be made to strengthen international research cooperation with a view to further integrating the Community into the world-wide research community. Therefore, this Specific Programme should be open to the participation of countries having concluded agreements to this effect and should <i>be also</i> open on the project level, and on the basis of mutual benefit, to the participation of entities from third countries and of	(8) As provided for under Article 170 of the Treaty, the Community has concluded a number of international agreements in the field of research and efforts should be made to strengthen international research cooperation with a view to further integrating the Community into the world-wide research community. Therefore, this Specific Programme should be open to the participation of countries having concluded agreements to this effect, <i>should likewise strengthen cooperation with countries which have not concluded agreements to this effect</i> , and should <i>also be</i> open on the

¹ Not yet published in OJ.

international organisations for scientific cooperation.

project level, and on the basis of ***the common good and*** mutual benefit, to the participation of entities from third countries and of international organisations for scientific cooperation.

Amendment 3
Recital 9

(9) 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,

(9) 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 confirm the civic and humanist value of research, with due regard for ethical and cultural diversity.***

Justification

More than ever, research is experiencing tension – sometimes fruitful and sometimes destructive – between its impressive advances and society and its economic, political and cultural structure. We should take time to consider the issues raised by ethics and by the many cultural points of view in the world of research.

Amendment 4
Recital 10

Does not apply to English version.

Amendment 5

Recital 11 a (new)

(11a) 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.

Or. de

Justification

Easier access to the programme for European research institutions and interested parties in a call for proposals.

Amendment 6
Article 7, paragraph 3 a (new)

3a. The Commission shall ensure that the research results are evaluated and shall report on their contribution to a dynamic, knowledge-based society in Europe.

Or. de

Justification

The Commission has to show that the programme's goal of a dynamic, knowledge-based society in Europe has actually been achieved.

Amendment 7
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.

Or. de

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 8
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.

Or. de

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 9

Annex I, Scientific and technological objectives, broad lines of the themes and activities, paragraph 2

The overarching aim is to contribute to sustainable development within the context of promoting research at the highest level of excellence.

The primary purpose of research should be to increase knowledge. The overarching aim is to contribute ***to an increase in knowledge and also*** to sustainable development within the context of promoting research at the highest level of excellence. ***Research is a fundamental instrument for encouraging social inclusion, active citizenship and participation, economic growth, competitiveness, health and quality of life.***

Justification

Research and science are more and more frequently intertwined with competitiveness, the economy or inputs, and the benefits for industry. Scientific research must be understood primarily as an activity to increase knowledge.

Amendment 10

Annex I, Scientific and technological objectives, broad lines of the themes and activities, paragraph 2 a (new)

In the case of university-industry partnerships, the Commission will undertake to disseminate the results of basic and applied research, where these are of public interest and directed to the common good.

Justification

To fulfil the undertakings of the Lisbon Agenda, the priority for European research should be to spread and democratise knowledge. In projects funded under the Seventh Framework Programme which entail cooperation between industry and universities, it should be guaranteed both that there will be research on subjects which do not have direct industrial spin-offs and that research results will be accessible to and usable by the public at large, especially when such results make a contribution to the improvement and development of society.

Amendment 11

Annex I, Scientific and technological objectives, broad lines of the themes and activities, Dissemination, knowledge transfer and broader engagement, indent 4 a (new)

- Specific learning initiatives organised in cooperation with existing networks of stakeholders (public administrations, users, industry, civil society) aimed at collecting and reporting positive experiences as well as 'failures' as a natural part of project implementation from which it is crucial to learn;

Amendment 12

Annex I, Scientific and technological objectives, broad lines of the themes and activities, International *co-operation*, paragraph 1, introductory phrase

International cooperation actions will support an international *Science* and *Technology* policy that has ***two*** interdependent objectives:

International cooperation actions will support an international *science* and *technology* policy that has ***three*** interdependent objectives:

Amendment 13

Annex I, Scientific and technological objectives, broad lines of the themes and activities, International *co-operation*, paragraph 1, indent 1

- To support and promote ***European competitiveness*** through strategic research partnerships with third countries including highly industrialised and emerging economies *in science and technology* ***by engaging the best*** third country scientists to work in and with Europe.

- to support and promote ***research projects of universal value*** through strategic research partnerships *in science and technology* with third countries including highly industrialised and emerging economies, ***supporting the mobility of*** third country scientists ***to ensure that they have the best conditions enabling them*** to work in and

with Europe *and facilitating their subsequent return home*;

Justification

We need to encourage the European research system to be open to foreign researchers, creating the optimum conditions to enable them, once they have returned to their countries of origin, to continue to cooperate with Europe and to put the results of joint research to good use. In addition, in projects involving international cooperation, whether between countries or between mixed research teams, priorities will have to be taken into account in a fair and balanced manner.

Amendment 14

Annex I, Scientific and technological objectives, broad lines of the themes and activities, International *co-operation*, paragraph 1, indent 1 a (new)

- to ensure that the results and benefits of research of universal value are accessible and usable on a broad scale;

Amendment 15

Annex I, Scientific and technological objectives, broad lines of the themes and activities, International *co-operation*, paragraph 1, indent 2

- To address specific problems that third countries face or that have a global character, ***on the basis of mutual interest and mutual benefit.***

- to address specific problems that third countries face or that have a global character, ***enhancing the concept of worldwide cooperation and the sharing of knowledge and information.***

Amendment 16

Annex I, Scientific and technological objectives, broad lines of the themes and activities, International *co-operation*, paragraph 2

The international scientific cooperation policy of the EU will stress and develop cooperation to generate, share and use knowledge through equitable research partnerships taking into account the country, regional and socio-economic context ***and*** knowledge base of partner countries. The

The international scientific cooperation policy of the EU will stress and develop cooperation to generate, share and use knowledge through equitable research partnerships taking into account the ***international***, country, regional and socio-economic context, knowledge base ***and***

strategic approach is to enhance EU competitiveness and global sustainable development through such partnerships between the EU and third countries at bilateral, regional and global levels based on ***mutual interest and benefit***. To this end the EU's role as a global player should be also promoted through multilateral international research programmes. The international cooperation actions supported will be connected to mainstream policy issues in order to support fulfilling international commitments of the EU and contribute to sharing ***European values***, competitiveness, socio-economic progress, environmental protection and welfare under the umbrella of global sustainable development.

European priorities of partner countries. The strategic approach is to enhance EU competitiveness and global sustainable development through such partnerships between the EU and third countries at bilateral, regional and global levels based on ***the public and collective*** interest. To this end the EU's role as a global player should be also promoted through multilateral international research programmes. The international cooperation actions supported will be connected to mainstream policy issues in order to support fulfilling international commitments of the EU and contribute to sharing ***results so as to enhance*** competitiveness, socio-economic progress, environmental protection and welfare under the umbrella of global sustainable development.

Amendment 17

Annex I, Themes, point 1, Approach, paragraph 4 a (new)

Prevention and information with regard to all aspects of public health should not be a matter only for individual Ministers of Health, research centres and hospitals; synergies should be created with the education sector for targeted health education and disease prevention activities (courses, screenings, leaflets).

Amendment 18

Annex I, Themes, point 3, Objective

Improve the competitiveness of European ***industry*** and enable Europe to ***master*** and ***shape the future developments*** of ***Information and Communication Technologies (ICT)*** so that the ***demands of its society and economy are met***. Activities will strengthen Europe's scientific and technology base and ensure its global leadership in ICT, help drive and stimulate

Improve the competitiveness of ***the*** European ***information and communication technologies (ICT)*** sector and enable Europe to ***create an open and inclusive information society which respects human rights, freedom of expression and cultural and linguistic diversity, as adopted at the Tunis International Conference on ICT, and which also helps to resolve the major***

innovation through ICT use and ensure that ICT progress is rapidly transformed into benefits for Europe's citizens, businesses, industry and governments.

inequalities with regard to ICT developments between and within countries. Activities will strengthen Europe's scientific and technology base and ensure its global leadership in ICT, help drive and stimulate innovation ***and development*** through ICT use and ensure that ICT progress is rapidly transformed into benefits for Europe's citizens, ***universities, research centres,*** businesses, industry and governments ***and for those of the emerging developing countries with which there are already networked cooperation projects (EUMEDIS and EUMEDCONTACT for the Mediterranean, @LIS for Latin America and ASI@ICT for Asia).***

Justification

The new information and communication technologies (ICT) are playing an increasingly predominant role in contemporary society. They have an impact on governance, education, information, industrial development, the environment and the daily lives of billions of people. The European Union must help to create an information society in which technology, infrastructure and services are tools to serve the public. Making the information society open and inclusive also means resolving the huge gap between regions (rural areas), social groups (disadvantaged groups) and the North and South.

Amendment 19

Annex I, Themes, point 3, Introduction, paragraph 1

Information and communication technologies (ICT) play a unique, proven role in fostering innovation, creativity and competitiveness of all industry and service sectors. They are essential for addressing key societal challenges and modernising public services and they underpin progress in all science and technology fields. Europe must therefore ***master and shape*** the future developments of ICT and ensure that ICT-based services and products are taken up and used to deliver the maximum possible benefits for citizens and businesses.

Information and communication technologies (ICT) play a unique, proven role in fostering innovation, creativity and competitiveness of all industry and service sectors. ***ICT can also play an important part in disseminating know-how, knowledge and research results and ensuring access thereto.*** They are essential for addressing key societal challenges and modernising public services and they underpin progress in all science and technology fields. ***They help to improve and diversify access to information and should foster active citizen participation.*** Europe must therefore ***encourage*** the future developments of ICT ***in the direction of***

openness and inclusivity and ensure that ICT-based services and products are taken up and used to deliver the maximum possible benefits for citizens and businesses.

Amendment 20

Annex I, Themes, point 3, Applications Research, ICT meeting societal challenges, indent 2

– for governments: use of ICT in an interdisciplinary approach in public administrations combined with organisational change and new skills in order to deliver innovative, citizen-centric services for all; advanced *ICT based* research and solutions to improve democratic and participatory processes and the performance and quality of public sector services, interaction with and between administrations and governments, and support legislative and policy development processes in all stages of democracy;

– for governments: use of ICT in an interdisciplinary approach in public administrations combined with organisational change, ***re-engineering processes*** and new skills in order to deliver innovative, citizen-centric services for all; advanced *ICT-based* research and solutions to improve democratic and participatory processes and the performance and quality of public sector services, interaction with and between administrations and governments, and support legislative and policy development processes in all stages of democracy;

Amendment 21

Annex I, Themes, point 3, Applications Research, ICT for content, creativity and personal development, indent 2 a (new)

– protection, conservation and enhancement of cultural heritage, including human habitat: technologies for the environmentally sound and sustainable management of the human environment, including the built environment, urban areas, landscape, as well as for the protection, conservation and optimal use and integration of cultural heritage, including environmental impact assessment, models and tools for risk evaluation, advanced and non-destructive techniques for damage diagnosis, new products and methodologies for restoration, mitigation and adaptation strategies for the sustainable management of both movable and immovable cultural assets;

PROCEDURE

Title	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	CULT 17.11.2005
Enhanced cooperation – date announced in plenary	
Drafts(wo)man Date appointed	Giovanni Berlinguer 7.10.2005
Previous drafts(wo)man	
Discussed in committee	23.1.2006 23.32.2006 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)	...