

# EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2004



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*Committee on Culture and Education*

**2005/0187(CNS)**

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

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## 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 Commission <sup>1</sup>   | Amendments by Parliament  |
|--|---|
| <b>Amendment 1</b><br>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 <b><i>and reconfirm the civic and humanistic value of research while respecting ethical and cultural diversity.</i></b> |
| <b>Justification</b><br><br><i>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.</i> |   |
| <b>Amendment 2</b><br>Recital 9  |   |
| (9) The Framework Programme <b><i>should</i></b> contribute towards promoting sustainable development.   | (9) The Framework Programme <b><i>must</i></b> contribute towards promoting sustainable development.  |

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<sup>1</sup> Not yet published in OJ.

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

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”.

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.

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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

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

Actions”, while a dedicated action is addressing industry-academia pathways and partnerships.

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 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). ***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 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

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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.

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## PROCEDURAL PAGE

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>Title</b>  | Specific programme 'People' implementing the 7th Framework Programme (2007-2013) of the European Community for research, technological development and demonstration activities  |
| <b>References</b>   | COM(2005)0442 – C6-0383/2005 – 2005/0187(CNS)  |
| <b>Committee responsible</b>                                      | ITRE   |
| <b>Opinion by</b><br>Date announced in plenary                    | CULT<br>17.11.2005   |
| <b>Enhanced cooperation – date announced in plenary</b>           |  |
| <b>Drafts(wo)man</b><br>Date appointed                            | Giovanni Berlinguer<br>4.10.2005   |
| <b>Previous drafts(wo)man</b>                                     |  |
| <b>Discussed in committee</b>                                     | 23.1.2006    23.2.2006    0.0.0000   |
| <b>Date adopted</b>   | 21.3.2006  |
| <b>Result of final vote</b>                                       | +: 25<br>–: 1<br>0: 0  |
| <b>Members present for the final vote</b>                         | 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 |
| <b>Substitute(s) present for the final vote</b>                   | Gyula Hegyi, Mario Mauro, Jaroslav Zvěřina   |
| <b>Substitute(s) under Rule 178(2) present for the final vote</b> |  |
| <b>Comments (available in one language only)</b>                  | ...  |