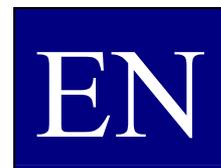




**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**



Brussels, 18 December 2006
16887/06 (Presse 366)

Council approves EU research programmes for 2007-2013

The Council adopted today decisions ¹ establishing the 7th framework programme (FP7) of the European Community (EC) for research and technological development for the period 2007 to 2013, and the FP7 for nuclear research activities (Euratom) for 2007 to 2011 (*3666/06 and 13802/06*).

The Council also adopted a regulation laying down the rules for the participation of undertakings, research centres and universities in actions under FP7-EC and for the dissemination of research results (*3668/06*).

This new legislative package will apply as from 1 January 2007, on schedule to guarantee continuity with the current FP6, which expires at the end of 2006.

FP7 is aimed at helping to put into effect one of the EU's main goals of increasing the potential for economic growth and of strengthening European competitiveness by investing in knowledge, innovation and human capital.

¹ The decisions were formally adopted, without discussion, at the Environment Council meeting.

P R E S S

The Council has been following, all along the legislative procedure, a number of guiding principles leading to its final adoption, including:

- the recognition of the role of FP7 as an instrument for achieving major EU objectives;
- the need for a focussed research effort bringing about a critical mass of expertise and European added value, while ensuring to complement this effort on key thematic research areas by providing flexible support to Community policies and by enabling a response to emerging scientific and technological needs;
- the need to ensure a smooth transition from FP6 and safeguard the possibility for all interested parties and entities to participate in Community research;
- the need to give greater importance to public-private partnership at all levels, including strongly improved support for research and technological development of small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) as well as long-term strategic research agendas of whole industry sectors such as those defined by European Technology Platforms and the setting up of Joint Technology Initiatives;
- the need for clarity both in terms of content and funding, bearing in mind that FP7 must be implemented through specific programmes which will provide for more detailed implementing modalities.

- *Community research*

FP7 (EC) will be implemented through specific programmes¹, corresponding to the main themes of European research policy:

- "Cooperation": on collaborative research;
- "Ideas": which includes the establishment of a European Research Council (ERC);
- "People": for human resources; and
- "Capacities": dealing with the potential research capacities of EU SMEs.

¹ Decisions on the specific programmes will be adopted, without discussion, during the Agriculture Council meeting on 19-20 December.

The indicative breakdown among programmes is as follows (*in EUR million*):

Cooperation ^{1, 2}	32 413
Health	6 100
Food, agriculture and fisheries, and biotechnology	1 935
Information and communication technologies	9 050
Nano-sciences, nano-technologies, materials and new production technologies	3 475
Energy	2 350
Environment (including climate change)	1 890
Transport (including aeronautics)	4 160
Socio-economic sciences and the humanities	623
Space	1 430
Security	1 400
Ideas	7 510
People	4 750
Capacities	4 097
Research infrastructures	1 715
Research for the benefit of SMEs	1 336
Regions of knowledge	126
Research potential	340
Science in society	330
Coherent development of research policies	70
Activities of international cooperation	180
Non-nuclear actions of the Joint Research Centre (JCR)	1 751
TOTAL	50 521

- Euratom

The Euratom programme, that runs until 2011, is set out in two specific programmes: the first covers fusion energy research and nuclear fission and radiation protection, and the second covers the activities of the Joint Research Centre in the field of nuclear energy.

It will get an allocation of EUR 2.7 billion for five years. An important part of the budget will contribute to financing the ITER international project on fusion energy.

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¹ Including Joint Technology Initiatives and the part of the coordination and international cooperation activities to be funded within the themes.

² The aim will be to enable at least 15 % of the funding available under the "Cooperation" part of the programme to go to SMEs.

Among the topics covered by the multi-annual EU programmes, ethical questions related to EU funding of human embryonic stem cell research, the structure of the ERC or the risk-sharing finance facility, have occupied a high place along political discussions at ministerial level.

Some of the above-mentioned topics have merited statements on behalf of the Commission and of individual member states (*see documents: 16292/1/06 ADD1, 16292/06 ADD2, 16364/06*).

Chronology of the procedure

In April 2005, the Commission submitted to the Parliament and the Council its proposals for decision on FP7 for EC and Euratom research.

On 29 November 2005, the Council agreed on a partial general approach on the proposals, pending the opinion of the Parliament and agreement on the financial perspectives 2007-2013 for the EU general budget. Following the agreement of 17 May 2006 on the financial perspectives, the Commission on 29 May submitted amended proposals adapting the EC and Euratom research framework programme decisions with regard to their budgetary provisions.

After the Parliament's amendments to the original Commission proposals voted on 15 June 2006, the Commission submitted on 29 June amended proposals for both programmes.

On 25 September the Council adopted its common position regarding FP7 (EC) (*12032/2/06 +ADD1 + ADD 1 REV 1*) following a political agreement achieved last July.

The Parliament voted on 30 November forty amendments in second reading.