

Procedure file

Basic information		
CNS - Consultation procedure Decision	1996/0235(CNS)	Procedure completed
Research and development: EC/Australia, Canada, USA agreements, intelligent manufacturing systems		
Subject 3.50.20 Scientific and technological cooperation and agreements		
Geographical area Canada Norway United States Australia Japan Switzerland		

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	RELA External Economic Relations		31/10/1996
		UPE MALERBA Franco E.	
	Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
	ENER Research, Technological Development and Energy		
Council of the European Union	Council configuration	Meeting	Date
	Economic and Financial Affairs ECOFIN	1986	27/01/1997

Key events			
04/10/1996	Legislative proposal published	COM(1996)0468	Summary
23/10/1996	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
02/12/1996	Vote in committee		Summary
02/12/1996	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading	A4-0401/1996	
13/12/1996	Decision by Parliament	T4-0695/1996	Summary
27/01/1997	Act adopted by Council after consultation of Parliament		Summary
27/01/1997	End of procedure in Parliament		
18/06/1997	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	1996/0235(CNS)
Procedure type	CNS - Consultation procedure
Procedure subtype	International agreement
Legislative instrument	Decision
Legal basis	EC before Amsterdam E 228-p2; EC before Amsterdam E 228-p3; EC before Amsterdam E 130M
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	RELA/4/08330

Documentation gateway					
Legislative proposal		COM(1996)0468 OJ C 371 09.12.1996, p. 0001	04/10/1996	EC	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading		A4-0401/1996 OJ C 020 20.01.1997, p. 0004	02/12/1996	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading		T4-0695/1996 OJ C 020 20.01.1997, p. 0365-0371	13/12/1996	EP	Summary

Additional information	
European Commission	EUR-Lex

Final act
Decision 1997/378 OJ L 161 18.06.1997, p. 0001 Summary

Research and development: EC/Australia, Canada, USA agreements, intelligent manufacturing systems

OBJECTIVE: this proposal for a decision requests the Council to approve and authorize the signing of an international cooperation agreement concerning research and development in the field of intelligent manufacturing systems with the following third countries: Australia, Canada, Japan, United States, Norway and Switzerland. SUBSTANCE: the agreement would establish the principles of cooperation in the field of intelligent manufacturing systems between legal entities in the Community and legal entities in third countries. For legal entities in the Community the multiannual framework R&D programme, and particularly the Informational Technologies Programme and the Industrial and Material Technologies Programme, are the relevant financing programmes. The rules proposed for the allocation, dissemination and protection of intellectual property rights arising from the cooperation follow the guiding principles set out in the Joint Declaration by the Council and Commission of 26 June 1992. The cooperation will initially cover the following subjects: total product life cycle; processes; strategy/planning/design tools; human/organization/social issues; virtual/extended enterprises. Cooperation will involve participation in projects by entities in accordance with procedures adopted in common for the creation and operation of international consortia and may include visits, training and exchanges of scientists. Representatives of the Participants appointed to the International Steering Committee (ISC) will liaise between the ISC and their respective governments. They will monitor the implementation of IMSs. Financing of the activities will be subject to the availability of funds and to the applicable laws and regulations, policies and programmes of the participating regions. Each Participant will cover its own participation. The IMS programme will run for 10 years. ?

Research and development: EC/Australia, Canada, USA agreements, intelligent manufacturing systems

The Committee (Chairman Mr DE CLERCQ (ELDR,B)) decided, as proposed by the rapporteur Mr MALERBA(UPE,I), to recommend to the plenary next week the approval of the international agreement for cooperation in research and development in the field of intelligent manufacturing systems between the European Community, on the one hand, and Australia, Canada, Japan, the USA, Norway and Switzerland, on the other (consultation procedure). The Parliament will deliver its opinion in time for the final decision by the Council later in December. The agreement lays down the areas of common research, means of technical cooperation and intellectual property rules for the

diffusion of new information. It also identifies the EU programmes "Materials Technology" and "Information Technologies" as the budget lines to support the 10-year programme. The rapporteur based his recommendation on his belief that the agreement can benefit the European industry and, in the long run, have a positive impact on employment. In his opinion, the cooperation envisaged in the present agreement should involve horizontal projects covering enabling technologies, whereas pre-competitive focused research should be carried out only within the European Union. He further called for extending the programme to the automated services of public utilities (such as energy management or postal services). The Commission must ensure that the cooperation is accessible to a wide range of European enterprises, mainly SMEs, which are structurally weaker and worse equipped in terms of strategic vision than the large US and Japanese corporations. On the operational side, the rapporteur called for lean management structures and efficient use of funding. ?

Research and development: EC/Australia, Canada, USA agreements, intelligent manufacturing systems

In adopting the report without debate by Mr Franco MALERBA (UPE, I), Parliament approved the conclusion on behalf of the European Community of an agreement for international cooperation in research and development in the domain of Intelligence Manufacturing Systems between the European Community and Australia, Canada, Japan, the United States of America, Norway and Switzerland. ?

Research and development: EC/Australia, Canada, USA agreements, intelligent manufacturing systems

OBJECTIVE: conclusion of an international cooperation agreement on research and development activities in the domain of intelligent manufacturing systems (IMS) between the Community and the United States of America, Japan, Australia, Canada, Norway and Switzerland. COMMUNITY MEASURE: Council Decision 378/97/EC concerning the conclusion on behalf of the Community of an Exchange of Letters recording the common understanding on the principles of international cooperation on research and development activities in the domain of intelligent manufacturing systems between the European Community and the United States of America, Japan, Australia, Canada and the EFTA countries of Norway and Switzerland. SUBSTANCE: the agreement should establish the principles of cooperation with regard to research and development in the domain of intelligent manufacturing systems between entities of the Community and entities of third countries. For Community entities the multi-annual framework R & D programme and in particular the 'Information Technologies' and 'Industrial and Materials Technologies' programmes are those affected by the financing. The rules proposed for the allocation, dissemination and protection of intellectual property rights resulting from the cooperation follow the guiding principles laid down in the Joint Declaration by the Council and the Commission of 26 June 1992. Initially cooperation will cover the following topics: - total product life cycle issues; - process issues; - strategy/planning/design tools; - human/organizational/social issues; -virtual/extended enterprise issues. Cooperation will involve participation in projects by entities, in accordance with procedures adopted in common for the creation and operation of international consortia. It will include visits, training and exchanges of scientists. Representatives of the participants appointed to the International Steering Committee will act as the liaison between it and their respective governments. They will monitor the implementation of the IMS. Financing of activities will be subject to the availability of funds and to the applicable laws and regulations, policies and programmes of the participating regions. Each participant will cover its own participation. The IMS programme will have a duration of 10 years. ENTRY INTO FORCE: the decision entered into force on 27 January 1997. The agreement will enter into force as soon as the necessary notifications have been completed. ?

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The Council adopted a Decision concerning the conclusion on behalf of the European Community of an exchange of letters recording the common understanding on the principles.?