


Procedure file

Basic information		
COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic)	2000/2334(COS)	Procedure completed
European Research Area: guidelines for European Union research activities 2002-2006		
Subject 3.50.01 European research area and policy		

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	ITRE Industry, External Trade, Research, Energy		07/11/2000
		ELDR PLOOIJ-VAN GORSEL Elly	
	Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
	CULT Culture, Youth, Education, Media and Sport		06/11/2000
		GUE/NGL FRAISSE Geneviève	
Council of the European Union	FEMM Women's Rights and Equal Opportunities		22/11/2000
		PSE MCNALLY Eryl Margaret	
European Commission	Commission DG Research and Innovation	Commissioner	

Key events			
04/10/2000	Non-legislative basic document published	COM(2000)0612	Summary
15/01/2001	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
06/02/2001	Vote in committee		Summary
06/02/2001	Committee report tabled for plenary	A5-0052/2001	
15/02/2001	Debate in Parliament		
15/02/2001	Decision by Parliament	T5-0096/2001	Summary
15/02/2001	End of procedure in Parliament		
01/10/2001	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2000/2334(COS)
Procedure type	COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic)
Procedure subtype	Commission strategy paper
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 142
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	ITRE/5/14201

Documentation gateway					
Non-legislative basic document		COM(2000)0612	04/10/2000	EC	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A5-0052/2001	06/02/2001	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T5-0096/2001 OJ C 276 01.10.2001, p. 0163-0271	15/02/2001	EP	Summary
Committee of the Regions: opinion		CDR0063/2001 OJ C 357 14.12.2001, p. 0015	13/06/2001	CofR	

European Research Area: guidelines for European Union research activities 2002-2006

PURPOSE : to propose guidelines for future measures in support of EU research, and more specifically the Research Framework Programme, for the period 2000-2006. In addition, this paper contains the Commission's mid-term review of the 5th research Framework Programme.

CONTENT : according to the Commission, future measures in support of EU research should be designed with reference to the broad lines of the "European Research Area", that is: to strengthen the scientific and technological bases of Community industry and encourage it to become more competitive at international level; promote the research activities deemed necessary by virtue of other EU policies. This implies action in number of areas, the first of which (various forms of support for research activities in their strict sense) should account for a substantial proportion of EU efforts: 1) Research activities : improving the performance of European research, in particular through the networking and coordinated implementation of national programmes; networking centres and areas of excellence in the public (in particular university) and private sectors in the Member States; carrying out large-scale targeted research projects, particularly in the field of industrial research; 2) Research and innovation, "start-ups" and SMEs: strengthening technological innovation capacities in the EU, in particular by supporting research for and in SMEs, dissemination, transfer and take-up of knowledge and technologies, exploitation of research results and setting-up of technology businesses; 3) Research infrastructure : strengthening the European research infrastructure by implementing a European policy in this area, taking into account questions concerning access, operation and construction, and also covering the question of large-capacity electronic network for research; 4) Human resources : in support of the development of a knowledge-based economy, strengthening Europe's human resources in science, technology and innovation, in particular by increasing transfrontier mobility, developing European careers, increasing the participation of women in research and making the scientific professions more attractive to young people and Europe more attractive to researchers from third countries; 5) Science, society and citizens : establishing on a European scale, a new contract between science and society by strengthening the link between research activities and policies and the needs of society, taking greater account of the needs relating to the application of the precautionary principle and the sustainable development principle, as well as the social and ethical consequences of scientific and technological progress. Three specific aspects should be taken into account with regard to measures taken in these areas: the European scientific and technological development; regional dimension; international dimension. These three aspects should be taken into account in particular by efforts to implement joint measures with these of the "European Research Area", or measures complementing activities in its main fields, in the spheres of action of : European intergovernmental scientific cooperation structures and organisations (e.g. the European Science Foundation, COST and EUREKA but also ESA, EMBL, ESRF and CERN); the Structural Funds, regional initiatives and European Investment Bank activities; the programmes of economic and technical assistance to the Central and Eastern European countries and Mediterranean third countries, and the other financial instruments of international cooperation. Moreover, European research efforts should be focused on a more limited number of priorities which should be the subject to a political choice on the basis of objective assessment criteria. There are two aspects to the question of selecting and justifying EU research activities: the justification of public funding and justification for support at EU level (European added value).?

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The committee adopted the report by Elly PLOOIJ-VAN GORSEL (ELDR, NL) on the Commission communication, emphasising that it served as the starting point for an in-depth political and scientific debate on establishing the European Research Area. The committee stressed that the financial resources applied to the 6th Framework Programme should in future reflect the new objectives and the new instruments, as well as enlargement. It noted that, in view of the importance of the SME sector in Europe, at least 10% of EU research funding should be allocated to SME-related research. The committee was in favour of introducing new research policy instruments, provided they: promoted genuine cooperation and coordination between EU research actions and Member State activities, as well as between the activities of the various Member States; were integrated in the next Framework Programme, and presented equality of opportunity to all Member States and to members of the scientific community, so as to prevent the risk of one specific application of the instruments known as 'major projects'.

·networks of excellence· and ·concentration· excluding either public or private research groups. However, the committee approved the development of 'networks of excellence', provided that they promoted cooperation between universities, research centres, industry and SMEs, and that they did not focus exclusively on large-scale projects. It believed that this concept should be made clear in the future proposal for the Sixth Framework Directive. The committee also wanted the Commission to oversee the rapid creation of a high-speed trans-European research network with a capacity of 100 gigabit/second. Without this network a dynamic, knowledge-based economy would not be possible. Lastly, Member States were urged to improve the recruitment of EU science and engineering students. ?

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The European Parliament adopted the report by Mrs Elly PLOOIJ-VAN GORSEL (ELDR, NL). (Please refer to the previous document as it mirrors the text that the House adopted).?