

Procedure file

Basic information		
CNS - Consultation procedure Decision	2005/0185(CNS)	Procedure completed
Research RTD, 7th EC Framework Programme 2007-2013: trans-national Cooperation specific programme on policy-defined themes		
Repealed by 2011/0402(CNS)		
Subject 3.50.02.01 EC, EU framework programme 3.50.20 Scientific and technological cooperation and agreements		

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	ITRE Industry, Research and Energy		05/10/2005
		PSE RIERA MADURELL Teresa	
	Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
	BUDG Budgets		20/09/2004
		PSE XENOGIANNAKOPOULOU Marilisa	
	ECON Economic and Monetary Affairs	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
	EMPL Employment and Social Affairs	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
	ENVI Environment, Public Health and Food Safety	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
	TRAN Transport and Tourism		
AGRI Agriculture and Rural Development		23/11/2005	
	PPE-DE PIEPER Markus		
CULT Culture and Education		07/10/2005	
	PSE BERLINGUER Giovanni		
Council of the European Union	Council configuration	Meeting	Date
	Agriculture and Fisheries	2774	19/12/2006
	Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs	2733	01/06/2006
	Competitiveness (Internal Market, Industry, Research and Space)	2731	29/05/2006
	Competitiveness (Internal Market, Industry, Research and Space)	2715	13/03/2006
European Commission	Commission DG	Commissioner	

Key events

21/09/2005	Legislative proposal published	COM(2005)0440	Summary
17/11/2005	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
13/03/2006	Debate in Council	2715	
29/05/2006	Debate in Council	2731	
01/06/2006	Resolution/conclusions adopted by Council		
10/10/2006	Vote in committee		
26/10/2006	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading	A6-0379/2006	
29/11/2006	Debate in Parliament		
30/11/2006	Results of vote in Parliament		
30/11/2006	Decision by Parliament	T6-0521/2006	Summary
19/12/2006	Act adopted by Council after consultation of Parliament		
19/12/2006	End of procedure in Parliament		
30/12/2006	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2005/0185(CNS)
Procedure type	CNS - Consultation procedure
Procedure subtype	Legislation
Legislative instrument	Decision
	Repealed by 2011/0402(CNS)
Legal basis	EC Treaty (after Amsterdam) EC 166
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	ITRE/6/30536

Documentation gateway

Legislative proposal		COM(2005)0440	21/09/2005	EC	Summary
Committee opinion	AGRI	PE365.080	23/02/2006	EP	
Committee opinion	TRAN	PE367.652	28/02/2006	EP	
Committee opinion	CULT	PE367.924	21/03/2006	EP	
Supplementary legislative basic document		COM(2005)0440/2	24/05/2006	EC	Summary
Document attached to the procedure		COM(2006)0239	24/05/2006	EC	Summary

Amendments tabled in committee		PE374.083	14/06/2006	EP	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE374.414	15/06/2006	EP	
Committee opinion	BUDG	PE374.072	22/06/2006	EP	
Committee draft report		PE368.072	16/10/2006	EP	
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading		A6-0379/2006	26/10/2006	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading		T6-0521/2006	30/11/2006	EP	Summary
Commission response to text adopted in plenary		SP(2007)0054	11/01/2007	EC	
For information		COM(2011)0052	09/02/2011	EC	Summary
Follow-up document		COM(2014)0686	30/10/2014	EC	Summary
Follow-up document		SWD(2014)0335	30/10/2014	EC	Summary

Additional information

European Commission

[EUR-Lex](#)

Final act

[Decision 2006/971](#)
[OJ L 400 30.12.2006, p. 0086](#) Summary

Research RTD, 7th EC Framework Programme 2007-2013: trans-national Cooperation specific programme on policy-defined themes

PURPOSE: To establish a specific programme entitled 'Co-operation' within the context of the EU's 7th research framework programme.

PROPOSED ACT: Council Decisions

CONTENT: The European Commission is presenting five 'specific programmes' in follow up to the approval of the 7th Framework Programme in April 2005. The first relates directly to actions funded under the Joint Research Centre. The other four are entitled: Co-operation, Ideas, Peoples and Capacity. The one under discussion here is the Co-operation specific programme.

Background:

The restructuring of the RT&D framework programmes is a bid by the European Commission to help the EU achieve its goal of becoming the most competitive knowledge-based economy in the world by 2010 and to help the EU realise its ambition of devoting 3% of GDP to RT&D by the same date. The specific programmes identified by the Commission have been designed to address major weaknesses in the level, quality and impact of European research. Their creation represents a further consolidation of the European Research Area by offering financial support to the free movement of ideas, knowledge and researchers. The re-structuring of the programmes includes a number of core innovations, including, for example, allowing researchers (under some actions) to identify topics for future funding. Other advances include the setting up of a Risk-Sharing Facility to improve access to EIB loans for large scale European actions and the establishment of a European Research Council. The Commission is also looking to overhaul the management methods of the framework programme by introducing improved efficiency drives through the externalisation of administrative tasks to an executive agency, seeking a clearer presentation of evaluation criteria, guaranteeing transparent work programmes and streamlining procedures for approving projects.

Specific programme 'Co-operation':

The Co-operation programme has been designed to offer leadership in key scientific and technological fields. It does so by supporting co-operation between universities, industry, research centres and public authorities at a European as well as global level. Within this context, the Co-operation programme will provide trans-national collaboration and assistance at every level of the research phase. In short, the over-arching aim of the specific programme is to promote research at the highest level of excellence through the exchange of ideas and research. There will be a strong accent on ethical considerations including the protection of human dignity and life, protection of personal data and privacy and environmental considerations in line with Community law.

Nine themes have been chosen to support this heading. They are: health, food, agriculture and bio-technology, information and communication technology, nano-sciences, nano-technologies, materials and new production technologies, energy, environment, transport, socio-economic sciences and humanities, security and space. The precise objective and approach of the nine themes are outlined in the Annexes. Pluri-disciplinary and cross-thematic research, including joint calls, will be encouraged. In order to make them industrially relevant,

the Commission is setting up 'European Technology Platforms', which will act as agents revising and updating emerging sciences. On the matter of emerging needs, the Commission is hoping that through specific support for research proposal, it will be able to help facilitate a more efficient system of targeted funding.

Within this context, the Commission is proposing the introduction of 'bottom-up' applications of presenting research proposals, whereby researchers, who have identified exciting research topics, can present them directly to the Commission for funding. These will be grouped under either 'adventure' or 'insight' actions. Another action, classified as 'pathfinder', allows the Commission to consider initiatives which focus on specific, highly challenging objectives in emerging scientific fields. In addition the Commission is offering the possibility of altering the annual work programme in cases where an unforeseen policy need has been identified - such as a sudden epidemic or an unexpected food scare.

A further key feature of the Co-operation programme is the successful application of knowledge transfer. It is widely recognised that translating successful research into either an economic or societal gain can be frustratingly slow. If the EU is serious in its bid to become a more dynamic and knowledge-based economy than the successful transfer of knowledge is considered crucial to the achievement of this objective. The Commission is therefore introducing a number of measures to help facilitate and encourage the dissemination of European research. This will be implemented in each thematic area by integrating and disseminating knowledge transfer actions within projects through, for example, financing schemes. Other proposed measures include offering dissemination actions, which actively seek to disseminate results from past, present and future research projects.

A further scheme being presented under the Co-operation programme is the Joint Technology Initiative. The Joint Technology Initiative responds to the need for long term public private partnership in certain fields of large-scale and on-going research activities. The research referred to here typically involves a small number of highly selective research fields. The European Investment Bank will be involved in offering loan finance. Funding for JTI will be decided on the basis of separate proposals and will be selected on the basis of a few key criteria. The initiatives must be able to prove that they offer added value for Europe as a whole, prove they have the support of industry, offer industrial competitive advantages, contribute to broader policy objectives and show national support. Scientific areas, which have already been identified as JTI compatible, include, inter alia, global environment monitoring, nano-electronics and embedded computing systems.

The co-ordination of non-Community research programmes is also listed as a key objective of the Co-operation programme. In this case the action makes use of two main tools, namely ERA-NET and the participation of the Community in jointly implemented national research programmes. Existing ERA-NET research from the 6th framework programme will be allowed to submit follow-up proposal or to broaden the consortia to new participants. In addition, the scheme will be opened to public bodies planning a research programme but which is not yet in operation. The action seeks to enhance synergies between the EU's framework programme and inter-governmental structures such as EUREKA.

Lastly, the Co-operation specific programme will offer international co-operation in order to promote European competitiveness and to address specific problems faced by third world countries. International co-operation will be implemented according to each of the nine thematic fields of research. It will work by opening up all activities carried out in the thematic area and will co-ordinate with the other specific actions foreseen by the 7th framework programme - specifically under the heading 'People' and 'Capacities'.

For further information concerning the financial implications of this measure, please refer to the financial statement.

Research RTD, 7th EC Framework Programme 2007-2013: trans-national Cooperation specific programme on policy-defined themes

On 21 September 2005, the Commission presented a 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.

The overall financial amount initially proposed by the Commission amounted to EUR 44 332,173.

The Commission subsequently adapted the budgetary aspects of these proposals following the Interinstitutional Agreement of 17 May 2006 on the Financial Framework 2007-2013.

The new overall amount is set at EUR 32 292 million, of which less than 6% shall be for the Commission's administrative expenditure.

Please refer to the financial statement for more details.

Research RTD, 7th EC Framework Programme 2007-2013: trans-national Cooperation specific programme on policy-defined themes

The European Parliament adopted a resolution based on the report drafted by Teresa RIERA MADURELL (PES, Spain) on the proposal for the Specific Programme "Cooperation" implementing the Seventh Framework Programme (2007-2013).

The following amendments were adopted in plenary:

- actions under the programme should be made as effective as possible by enhancing complementarity and synergy with other Community programmes and actions, in particular those on structural funds, agriculture, education, training, culture, competitiveness and innovation, industry, health, consumer protection, employment, energy, transport, environment and the information society;
- special consideration should be given to multidisciplinary and interdisciplinarity;
- the Programme should focus in particular on the transfer of knowledge, results and technologies from the public research sector to businesses, particularly SMEs, and on mechanisms to ensure that business needs are passed on to research teams in an effective and

coordinated manner;

- it should take due account of the important role played by regions in implementing the European Research Area;
- the Programme should contribute to the grant to the European Investment Bank for the constitution of a "Risk-Sharing Finance Facility" in order to improve access to EIB loans. Similarly, it should provide an equal amount of financial support with a view to covering the risks arising from SME involvement in projects, sparing them the need to provide bank guarantees. Given the importance to EU competitiveness of SME development, particular attention will be paid to helping high-tech SMEs to get access to research, in accordance with Article 169 of the Treaty (the EUREKA and "EUROSTARS" programmes);
- research activities must confirm the civic and humanistic value of research, with due regard for ethical and cultural diversity;
- despite the interconnections between space and security, these two subjects must be treated as two separate and well-defined priorities;
- the Commission shall take all necessary steps to verify that the actions financed are carried out effectively and in compliance with the provisions of Regulation 1605/2002;
- the overall administrative expenditure of the Specific Programme, including internal and management expenditure for the executive agency which it is proposed to set up, should be proportional to the activities undertaken under the Specific Programme and is subject to the decision of the budgetary and legislative authorities. Budget appropriations shall be used in accordance with the principle of sound financial management, namely in accordance with the principles of economy, efficiency and effectiveness, as well as the principle of proportionality;
- as with all the specific programmes, Parliament inserted a new clause stating that the Commission shall provide prior information to the budgetary authority whenever it intends to depart from the breakdown of expenditure stated in the remarks in and annex to the annual budget;
- the work programme will specify the criteria on which proposals for indirect actions under the funding schemes shall be evaluated and projects selected, while recognising the compatibility of the participation of researchers and groups in national and European programmes simultaneously;
- 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 the programme;
- Parliament makes it clear that 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;
- 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;
- special attention will be paid to enhancing cohesion between EU Member State and regions in the sphere of science and technology, with particular reference to measures to reduce the technology gap between various areas by selective boosting of the technological capacities of undertakings at all levels. To this end, Framework Programme activities will be coordinated with the action lines of other Community policies, particularly regional policy and competitiveness and innovation policy;
- tourism-related technologies, green engineering and chemistry, and environmental health are included under pluridisciplinary and cross-thematic research;
- the work programme will specify the activities that are to be subject to special coordination with those coming under other specific programmes and will establish the mechanisms required in order for such coordination to be effective;
- Parliament defined "Foresight actions" as identifying at an early stage developments and trends with significant prospective applications;
- international cooperation must create the basis for research activities and capacities in the developing countries and to consolidate and strengthen the bodies responsible: universities and public and private centres for the training of researchers;
- the programme must support 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.

Research RTD, 7th EC Framework Programme 2007-2013: trans-national Cooperation specific programme on policy-defined themes

PURPOSE: to adopt the Specific Programme "Co-operation" under the 7th Framework Programme.

LEGISLATIVE ACT: Council Decision 2006/971/EC concerning the Specific Programme "Co-operation" implementing the Seventh Framework Programme of the European Community for research, technological development and demonstration activities (2007-2013).

CONTENT: the adoption of the Specific Programme "Co-operation" stems from Council Decision 1982/2006/EC concerning the Seventh Framework Programme (2007-2013). See: [COD/2005/0043](#). The new 7th Framework Programme is centred on four research pillars: : Co-operation; Ideas; People; and Capacity.

The Co-operation programme has been designed to offer leadership in key scientific and technological fields. It does so by supporting co-operation between universities, industry, research centres and public authorities at a European as well as global level. Within this context, the Co-operation programme will provide trans-national collaboration and assistance at every level of the research phase. In short, the over-arching aim of the specific programme is to promote research at the highest level of excellence through the exchange of ideas and research. The Programme has been awarded a EUR 32 413 million budget to help realise these objectives.

Nine themes have been chosen to support this heading. They are:

- 1) health;

- 2) food, agriculture and bio-technology;
- 3) information and communication technology;
- 4) nano-sciences, nano-technologies, materials and new production technologies;
- 5) energy;
- 6) environment (including climate change);
- 7) transport (including Aeronautics);
- 8) socio-economic sciences and humanities;
- 9) space; and
- 10) security.

Pluri-disciplinary and cross-thematic research, including joint calls, will be encouraged. Special attention will be given to projects that cut across themes such as marine sciences and technologies. In order to make projects as industrially relevant as possible, the Commission is setting up 'European Technology Platforms', which will act as agents revising and updating emerging sciences.

Within this context, 'bottom-up' applications for presenting research proposals have been approved, whereby researchers, who have identified exciting research topics, can present them directly to the Commission for funding. These will be grouped under either 'Adventure' or 'Insight' actions. Another action, classified as 'Pathfinder', allows the Commission to consider initiatives which focus on specific, highly challenging objectives in emerging scientific fields. In addition the Commission is offering the possibility of altering the annual work programme in cases where an unforeseen policy need has been identified - such as a sudden epidemic or an unexpected food scare.

A further key feature of the Co-operation programme is the successful application of knowledge transfer. A number of measures have therefore been introduced to help facilitate and encourage the dissemination of European research. This will be implemented in each thematic area by integrating and disseminating knowledge transfer actions within projects through, for example, financing schemes. Other measures include offering dissemination actions, which actively seek to disseminate results from past, present and future research projects.

The role of SMEs in furthering the strengthening of a European Research Area has been recognised and particular attention is given to their needs under the Co-operation Specific Programme. SME participation will be facilitated across the entire thematic areas through improved financial and administrative procedures and enhanced flexibility in terms of choosing what financial scheme is most appropriate to a given need.

Collaborative research will form the bulk as well as the core of Community research funding. The main objective being to establish excellent research projects and networks capable of attracting the brightest researchers and investment to Europe.

A further scheme being presented under the Co-operation programme is the Joint Technology Initiative. The Joint Technology Initiative responds to the need for long term public private partnership in certain fields of large-scale and on-going research activities. The research referred to typically involves a small number of highly selective research fields. The European Investment Bank will be involved in offering loan finance. Funding for JTI will be decided on the basis of separate proposals and will be selected on the basis of a few key criteria. The initiatives must be able to prove that they offer added value for Europe as a whole, prove they have the support of industry, offer industrial competitive advantages, contribute to broader policy objectives and show national support. Scientific areas, which have already been identified as JTI compatible, include, inter alia, global environment monitoring, nano-electronics and embedded computing systems.

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On a final point there will be a strong accent on ethical considerations including the protection of human dignity and life, protection of personal data and privacy and environmental considerations, in line with Community law.

ENTRY INTO FORCE: 2 January 2007.