Procedure file

Basic information

CNS - Consultation procedure Decision	2005/0190(CNS)	Procedure completed
Research RTD, 7th Euratom Framework Programme 2007-2011: fusion energy, nuclear fission and radiation protection specific programme Repealed by 2011/0400(NLE) Subject 3.50.02.02 Euratom framework programme, research and training programmes 3.60.04 Nuclear energy, industry and safety		

Key players

European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	ITRE Industry, Research and Energy		
	Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
	BUDG Budgets		20/09/2004
		PSE XENOGIANNAKOPOULOU Marilisa	
	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.	
Council of the European Union	Council configuration	Meeting	Date
	Agriculture and Fisheries	2774	19/12/2006
	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	
	Research and Innovation	POTOČNIK Janez	

Key events

21/09/2005	Legislative proposal published	COM(2005)0445	Summary
17/11/2005	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
13/03/2006	Debate in Council	2715	
29/05/2006	Debate in Council	2731	

03/10/2006	Vote in committee		Summary
11/10/2006	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading	A6-0333/2006	
29/11/2006	Debate in Parliament		
30/11/2006	Results of vote in Parliament		
30/11/2006	Decision by Parliament	T6-0524/2006	Summary
19/12/2006	Act adopted by Council after consultation of Parliament		
19/12/2006	End of procedure in Parliament		
30/12/2007	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2005/0190(CNS)
Procedure type	CNS - Consultation procedure
Procedure subtype	Legislation
Legislative instrument	Decision
	Repealed by 2011/0400(NLE)
Legal basis	Euratom Treaty A 007-p1
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	ITRE/6/30667

Documentation gateway

Legislative proposal		COM(2005)0445	21/09/2005	EC	Summary
Committee draft report		PE368.078	07/04/2006	EP	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE374.089	18/05/2006	EP	
Supplementary legislative basic document		COM(2005)0445/2	24/05/2006	EC	Summary
Document attached to the procedure		COM(2006)0239	24/05/2006	EC	Summary
Committee opinion	BUDG	PE374.073	23/06/2006	EP	
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading		A6-0333/2006	11/10/2006	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading		T6-0524/2006	30/11/2006	EP	Summary
Commission response to text adopted in plenary		SP(2007)0054	11/01/2007	EC	

Additional information

European Commission	EUR-Lex

Final act

Decision 2006/976

OJ L 400 30.12.2007, p. 0404 Summary

Research RTD, 7th Euratom Framework Programme 2007-2011: fusion energy, nuclear fission and radiation protection specific programme

PURPOSE: The establishment of a specific programme setting up indirect actions in the field of nuclear research and training activities within the context of the European Atomic Energy Community (Euratom) for nuclear energy.

PROPOSED ACT : Council Decision

CONTENT: The European Commission is presenting two ?specific programmes? in follow up to the adoption in April 2005 of its proposal for the 7th Framework Programme of the European Atomic Community (Euratom) for nuclear research and training activities. The first specific programme of the Euratom Treaty concerns ?direct? research activities of the Joint Research Centre relating to nuclear energy. This is the subject of a separate Commission proposal (2005/0189). The second, under discussion here, concerns ?indirect? actions on fusion energy research, nuclear fission and radiation protection.

Background:

The specific programmes of the 7th Euratom Framework Programme have been specifically designed to address the major challenges facing European nuclear research. Financial support at a European level offers European nuclear researchers the kind of opportunities that can not be achieved at a national level. The specific programmes represent a further consolidation of the European Research Area by achieving a critical mass of knowledge in new areas of research. In addition, EU funded RT&D supports the free movement of ideas, knowledge and researchers. An emphasis on flexibility will allow researchers to respond to emerging industrial as well as social needs. Flexibility aside, the Commission also promises to streamline management methods by significantly cutting red tape as well as simplifying the funding and reporting requirements.

Specific programme ? Fusion energy, nuclear fission and radiation protection:

Nuclear Power is the principal carbon-free source of base load electricity in the EU, totalling some 135We of installed capacity and accounting for one third of current electricity generation. It plays a key role in limiting the EU?s greenhouse gas emissions as well as contributing to the Union?s independence, security and diversity of energy supply. In the longer term, the Commission calculates that nuclear fission offers the prospect of an almost limitless supply of clean energy. ITER is considered the crucial next step in the progress towards this ultimate goal. It is the realisation of this goal that is the focus of present EU research strategies. Other areas of paramount importance and requiring on-going research relate to high levels of nuclear safety, sustainable waste management solutions and improving the efficiency and competitiveness of the nuclear sector. In order to achieve all of these gaols and to maintain a critical momentum for European nuclear research, the Commission proposes dividing this specific programme into two thematic research fields, namely fusion energy and secondly nuclear fission and radiation protection.

Fusion Energy: Any discussion on fusion energy has to be seen within the context the ITER facility in France and the ?Broader Approach? projects, which have been designed to accelerate the development of fusion energy. The domestic agency for ITER will be established as a Joint Undertaking under the Euratom treaty. It will provide the means for Euratom to discharge its international obligations under the ITER Agreement. Europe?s leading position in fusion energy is thanks to the combination of a single and fully integrated European fusion programme. The overall objective of the ?Fusion Energy? thematic research field is to realise ITER through the creation of prototype reactors for power stations that are safe, sustainable, environmentally responsible and economically viable. As such, the EU will play a leading role within the ITER organisation and will assume responsibility for site preparation, establishing the ITER Organisation, management and staffing. In addition, a focused physics and technology programme will seek to consolidate ITER projects. It will be executed through co-ordinated experimental, theoretical and modelling activities using the JET facilities. In addition, key technology activities will include the preparation of a DEMO power plant. The licensing, construction and operational phase thereof will be done in partnership with European industry. As far as the DEMO power plant is concerned a dedicated team will be established (ECEDA ? Engineering Validation and Engineering Design Activities) to prepare for the construction of the International Fusion Materials Irradiation Facility (IFMIF). The later will be used for testing materials of a fusion power station. Other, related activities, will focus on irradiation testing and the modelling of low activation and radiation resistant material and the development of key technologies required for fusion power plant operation, the conceptual design activities of DEMO, which will take full account of environmental and safety consideration. In terms of ensuring adequate human resources, the paper proposes to address this through support for the mobility of researchers between organisations and high-level training programme for engineers and researchers at a post-graduate level.

Nuclear fission and radiation protection: Indirect actions will be undertaken in five principal areas of activity. They are the management of radioactive waste, the safe operation of existing installations under the heading Reactor Systems, radiation protection, supporting research infrastructures and providing for adequate human resources and training. Important cross-cutting links will exist throughout the programme.

Lastly, both at the implementation level and the research level, activities within indirect actions will respect fundamental ethical principles based, inter alia, on those reflected in the Charter of Fundamental EU Rights.

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

Research RTD, 7th Euratom Framework Programme 2007-2011: fusion energy, nuclear fission and radiation protection specific programme

On 21 September 2005, the Commission presented a proposal for a Council Decision concerning the specific Programme implementing the seventh Framework Programme (2007-2011) of the European Atomic Energy Community (Euratom) for nuclear research and training

activities.

The overall financial amount initially proposed by the Commission amounted to EUR 2 552,435 million.

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 2 234 million.

Please refer to the financial statement for more details.

Research RTD, 7th Euratom Framework Programme 2007-2011: fusion energy, nuclear fission and radiation protection specific programme

The committee adopted the report by Umberto GUIDONI (EUL/NGL, IT) amending - under the consultation procedure - the specific programme implementing the 7th EURATOM Framework Programme (2007-2011) for nuclear research and training activities. In the legislative resolution, the committee said that the indicative financial reference amount indicated in the legislative proposal must be compatible with the ceiling of heading 1a of the new multiannual financial framework, and pointed out that the annual amount would be decided within the annual budgetary procedure. It also adopted a new Article 5a stipulating that the Commission should provide prior information to the budgetary authority whenever it intends to depart from the breakdown of expenditure stated in the remarks and annex to the annual budget.

In other amendments, the committee stipulated that the essential aim of nuclear research activities should be "both to ensure a safer peaceful use of nuclear energy (safety) and to help avert its misuse for military purposes (security)". While emphasising the EU's strong commitment to research into renewable energies, the report also stressed the "major role" which nuclear energy could play in achieving secure and sustainable energy supply within the EU. Lastly, it introduced a new section into the Annex stressing the importance of disseminating information to the public on nuclear energy, inter alia through multi-annual campaigns, with the aim of encouraging debate and facilitating decision-taking.

Research RTD, 7th Euratom Framework Programme 2007-2011: fusion energy, nuclear fission and radiation protection specific programme

The European Parliament adopted a resolution based on the report drafted by Umberto GUIDONI (EUL/NGL, IT) and made some amendments to the proposal, which conformed, for the most part, to the report of its competent committee. As with all the specific programmes, a new Article 5a states 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 general budget of the EU. In addition, the following amendments were made:

- Parliament stipulated within the field of Fusion energy research, a joint undertaking established under Title II, Chapter 5 of the Treaty shall be created for managing and administering the European contribution totheITER Organisation, as well astheactivitiesin support of ITER construction, set out in the sub-heading "The realization of ITER" in the Annex. All other activities in the field of fusion energy will be implemented and managed separately from the ITER Joint Undertaking, whilst maintaining an integrated approach and the full involvement of the Fusion Associations;

- it must also draw up an evaluation report containing an assessment of the soundness of financial management and an evaluation of the efficiency and regularity of the budgetary and economic management of the Specific Programme;

- a new clause states that, without prejudice to the efforts which the EU is making and must continue to make in research into renewable energies, nuclear energy can have a major role to play in achieving secure and sustainable energy supply within the EU;

- the essential aim of nuclear research activities should be "both to ensure a safer peaceful use of nuclear energy (safety) and to help avert its misuse for military purposes (security)";

- Parliament did not take up the clause insertinga new section into the Annex on the importance of disseminating information to the public on nuclear energy. This clause had been voted through in committee.

Research RTD, 7th Euratom Framework Programme 2007-2011: fusion energy, nuclear fission and radiation protection specific programme

PURPOSE: to adopt a Specific Programme for nuclear research and training activities in the fields of Fusion Energy, Nuclear Fission and Radiation Protection under the 7th Euratom Framework Programme

LEGISLATIVE ACT: Council Decision 2006/976/Euratom concerning the Specific Programme implementing the Seventh Framework Programme of the European Atomic Energy Community (Euratom) for nuclear research and training activities (2007 ? 2011).

CONTENT: the adoption of a Specific Programme on fusion energy, nuclear fission and radiation protection, stems from Council Decision 2006/970/Euratom concerning the Seventh Framework Programme (2007-2011). See: CNS/2005/0044.

Two Specific Programmes were approved by the 7th Framework Programme of the European Atomic Community (Euratom). The first, concerns the direct nuclear research and training activities of the Joint Research Centre. See CNS/2005/0189. The second, is the subject of this summary.

Nuclear Power is the principal carbon-free source of base load electricity in the EU. It plays a key role in limiting the EU?s greenhouse gas emissions as well as contributing to the Union?s independence, security and diversity of energy supply. In the longer term, nuclear fission offers the prospect of an almost limitless supply of clean energy.

ITER is considered the crucial next step in the progress towards this ultimate goal. It is the realisation of this goal that is the focus of present EU research strategies. Other areas of paramount importance and requiring on-going research relate to high levels of nuclear safety, sustainable waste management solutions and improving the efficiency and competitiveness of the nuclear sector.

In order to achieve all of these gaols and to maintain a critical momentum for European nuclear research, this Specific Programme has been divided into two thematic research fields: fusion energy and secondly nuclear fission and radiation protection. The Programme has been awarded a EUR 2 234 million budget to help realise these objectives.

1) Fusion Energy: The ITER facility in France and the ?Broader Approach? projects have been designed to accelerate the development of fusion energy. The domestic agency for ITER will be established as a Joint Undertaking under the Euratom treaty. The overall objective of the ?Fusion Energy? thematic research field is to realise ITER through the creation of prototype reactors for power stations that are safe, sustainable, environmentally responsible and economically viable. As such, the EU will play a leading role within the ITER organisation and will assume responsibility for site preparation, establishing the ITER organisation, management and staffing. In addition, a focused physics and technology programme will seek to consolidate ITER projects. It will be executed through co-ordinated experimental, theoretical and modelling activities using the JET facilities. In addition, key technology activities will include the preparation of a DEMO power plant. The licensing, construction and operational phase thereof will be done in partnership with European industry.

2) Nuclear fission and radiation protection: Indirect actions will be undertaken in five principal areas of activity. They are the management of radioactive waste, the safe operation of existing installations under the heading Reactor Systems, radiation protection, supporting research infrastructures and providing for adequate human resources and training. Important cross-cutting links will exist throughout the programme.

Lastly, both at the implementation level and the research level, activities within indirect actions will respect fundamental ethical principles based, inter alia, on those reflected in the Charter of Fundamental EU Rights.

ENTRY INTO FORCE: 2 January 2007.