

Procedure file

Basic information		
CNS - Consultation procedure Decision	2005/0184(CNS)	Procedure completed
Research RTD, 7th EC Framework Programme 2007-2013: specific programme through direct activities by the Joint Research Centre JRC		
Repealed by 2011/0402(CNS)		
Subject 3.50.02.01 EC, EU framework programme		

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	ITRE Industry, Research and Energy		05/10/2005
		Verts/ALE HAMMERSTEIN David	
	Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
	ENVI Environment, Public Health and Food Safety	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
	BUDG Budgets		20/09/2004
		PSE XENOGIANNAKOPOULOU Marilisa	
	EMPL Employment and Social Affairs	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)	2715	13/03/2006
European Commission	Commission DG	Commissioner	
	Research and Innovation	POTOČNIK Janez	

Key events			
20/09/2005	Legislative proposal published	COM(2005)0439	Summary
17/11/2005	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
13/03/2006	Debate in Council	2715	
03/10/2006	Vote in committee		
11/10/2006	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading	A6-0335/2006	
29/11/2006	Debate in Parliament		
30/11/2006	Results of vote in Parliament		
30/11/2006	Decision by Parliament	T6-0522/2006	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	2005/0184(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	Repealed by 2011/0402(CNS)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/6/30617

Documentation gateway

Legislative proposal		COM(2005)0439	21/09/2005	EC	Summary
Committee draft report		PE368.074	30/03/2006	EP	
Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report		CES0583/2006	20/04/2006	ESC	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE374.085	16/05/2006	EP	
Supplementary legislative basic document		COM(2005)0439/2	24/05/2006	EC	Summary
Document attached to the procedure		COM(2006)0239	24/05/2006	EC	Summary
Committee opinion	BUDG	PE374.077	23/06/2006	EP	
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading		A6-0335/2006	11/10/2006	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading		T6-0522/2006	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
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Final act

Decision 2006/975 OJ L 400 30.12.2006, p. 0367 Summary

PURPOSE: To establish a specific programme of direct actions for the Joint Research Centre (JRC) 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 relates to direct actions being funded under the Joint Research Centre 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 'Joint research Centre':

The main purpose of this Council Decision is the establishment of a specific programme for the 'Joint Research Centre' under the 7th research framework programme. The JCR is a supporting body of the EU offering help to the EU institutions (specifically the European Commission) for the enactment and implementation of the research programmes. It provides scientific and technological support to users through a Work programme with roughly one hundred actions.

The objective of the proposed specific programme is to continue the JCR's work of providing customer-driven scientific and technical support for the EU policy making process. The JCR will be asked to implement and monitor existing EU policies as well as having to respond to new policy demands. Its activities are grouped around a number of policy themes. The first being 'Prosperity in a knowledge intensive society?', whereby the JRC will seek to foster EU competitiveness through,

- Researching the production of internationally accepted references and the promotion of a common European measurement system. Other fields of research could include the safety of chemicals and cosmetic products, alternative (non-animal) testing, food safety and eEnergy. The JRC will collaborate closely with other national and international bodies, regulatory authorities and industry to achieve these objectives.
- Supporting evidence-based research policy-making at both EU and Member State level.
- Focusing on a smooth transition to less carbon intensive sources of energy as well as aiding the EU thematic strategy on air pollution.
- Supporting the formulation of Information Society Technology policies.
- Focusing research on Life Sciences and bio-technologies: In many respects controversial, the Commission, nevertheless, recognises that life sciences and bio-technologies can contribute significantly towards helping the EU become the most competitive knowledge-based economy by 2010. As such the JRC is asked, inter alia, to focus on issues such as the provision of quality assurance tools for genetic testing, studies in genome-based diagnostic applications and studies assessing the impact of nano-technologies on the environment and public health. Significantly, the Council Decision specifically states that the JRC will NOT conduct research into human cloning for reproductive purposes, modifying the genetic heritage of human beings, creating human embryos solely for the purpose of research, for the purpose of stem-cell procurement or for somatic cell nuclear transfer. In addition all research activities that are prohibited in all the Member States will not receive funding under this specific programme.

The second policy theme is entitled 'Solidarity and the responsible management of resources', whereby the JRC is asked to support European policies for Rural Development, Agriculture and Fisheries around a core theme of sustainability. Research activities under the sub-heading of 'Natural Resources?', will be based on a holistic approach and will be closely aligned to the EU's seven thematic environmental strategies. More specifically, activities will concentrate on water management, soil protection initiatives, life-cycle analysis and forestry. The impact of climate change on the environment will also be given priority under this policy-heading.

The third policy theme is entitled 'Security and freedom', whereby the JRC will be asked to focus on applying IT systems to help in the fight against crime and fraud, smuggling and illicit trafficking, the protection of critical infrastructures, counter-terrorism measures and migration and border management. Technical support to integrated border management and its inter-operability will also be provided.

The fourth policy theme is entitled, 'Europe as a world partner'. Under this heading, the JRC is expected to conduct research on global trade as well as instruments for stability and humanitarian aid. Thus, for example, the JRC will establish a global geo-spatial database and contribute to services supporting crisis management and the development of future GMES pilot services.

To conclude the JRC is expected to form links with research institutions across the EU as well as EU universities.

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

Research RTD, 7th EC Framework Programme 2007-2013: specific programme through direct activities by the Joint Research Centre JRC

On 21 September 2005, the Commission presented a proposal for a Council Decision concerning the Specific Programme to be carried out by means of direct actions by the Joint Research Centre under the 7th Framework Programme of the European Community for research, technological development and demonstration activities (2007-2013).

The overall financial amount initially proposed by the Commission amounted to EUR1 817 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 1 751 million.

Please refer to the financial statement for more details.

Research RTD, 7th EC Framework Programme 2007-2013: specific programme through direct activities by the Joint Research Centre JRC

The European Parliament adopted a resolution based on the report drafted by David HAMMERSTEIN-MINTZ (Greens-ALE, E), on the proposal concerning the Specific Programme to be carried out by means of direct actions by the Joint Research Centre under the 7th Framework Programme of the European Community for research, technological development and demonstration activities (2007-2013). The following amendments were adopted in plenary:

- a new recital states that publicly funded research should be directed primarily towards public needs and priorities and seek complementarity with privately funded research. Work undertaken by the Joint Research Centre should be coordinated with research carried out under the thematic priorities to avoid overlap with and duplication of national research programmes;
- the Commission should arrange for an independent assessment to be conducted concerning the activities carried out in the fields covered by the programme, which would include environmental, social, health and animal welfare criteria;
- the JRC must focus attention on issues which are important in terms of societal concern, which have a research component and which have a dominant community dimension, or which are of significance to a substantial proportion of the Community. It must also intensify its cooperation with other European institutions, in particular the European Parliament;
- the overall administrative expenditure of the Specific Programme, including internal and management expenditure for the Joint Research Centre should be proportional to the tasks 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;
- the Commission's assessment must contain 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;
- as with all the specific programmes, a new clause 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 and annex to the general budget of the EU;
- the JRC must increase transparency when setting its research priorities by making the criteria for these priorities publicly available and by informing the European Parliament and the Council of the reasons justifying the choice of research priorities;
- efforts should also be made to improve the access of SMEs to research results. This will encourage dialogue between science and society.

Research RTD, 7th EC Framework Programme 2007-2013: specific programme through direct activities by the Joint Research Centre JRC

PURPOSE: to adopt a Specific Programme related to the direct actions on research, technological development and demonstration to be carried out by the Joint Research Centre (JRC).

LEGISLATIVE ACT: Council Decision 2006/975/EC concerning the Specific Programme to be carried out by means of direct actions by the Joint Research Centre under the Seventh Framework Programme of the European Community for research, technological development and demonstration activities (2007-2013).

CONTENT: the adoption of the JRC Specific Programme 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 JRC is a supporting body of the EU offering help to the EU institutions (specifically the European Commission) to enact and implement research programmes. Its stated mission is to research areas of key concern to the EU including, inter alia, prosperity in a knowledge-intensive society, solidarity, sustainability and responsible management of resources, security and freedom and Europe as a world partner.

As such, the over-arching objective of the JRC Specific Programme is to establish the activities for the non-nuclear actions of the JRC in order to provide customer driven scientific and technical support to the Community policy making process. The Programme has been awarded a EUR 1 751 million budget to help realise these objectives.

Its activities are set out in Annex to the Decision under the following headings/policy themes:

1) Prosperity in a knowledge intensive society. The JRC will seek to foster EU competitiveness through the following sub-headings:

Competitiveness and Innovation: Objective: To conduct research into the production of internationally accepted references as well as the promotion of a common European measurement system, such as the safety of chemicals and cosmetic products, alternative (non-animal) testing, food safety, eEnergy, the security and protection of citizens and environment and health. The JRC will collaborate closely with other

national and international bodies, regulatory authorities and industry (ISO, CEN etc.) to achieve these objectives.

European Research Area: Objective: The JRC will contribute directly to the European Research Area by increasing its scientific networking, the training and mobility of researchers and by allowing access to its research infrastructures and collaborative research.

Energy and Transport: Objective: To focus JRC energies on a smooth transition to less carbon intensive sources of energy as well as aiding the EU thematic strategy on air pollution.

Information Society: Objective: To support the formulation of EU Information Society Technology policies.

Life Sciences and Bio-technology: Objective: To focus research on Life Sciences and bio-technologies: In many respects controversial, the Commission, nevertheless, recognises that life sciences and bio-technologies can contribute significantly towards helping the EU become the most competitive knowledge-based economy by 2010. As such the JRC is asked, inter alia, to focus on issues such as the provision of quality assurance tools for genetic testing, studies in genome-based diagnostic applications, and studies assessing the impact of nano-technologies on the environment and public health. There is also a separate heading for bio-technology in agriculture, food and feed.

2) Solidarity and the responsible management of resources: The JRC is asked to support European policies for Rural Development, Agriculture and Fisheries around a core theme of sustainability. Research activities under the sub-heading of 'Natural Resources', will be based on a holistic approach and will be closely aligned to the EU's seven thematic environmental strategies. More specifically, activities will concentrate on water management, soil protection initiatives, life-cycle analysis and forestry. The impact of climate change on the environment will also be given priority under this policy-heading.

3. Security and freedom: The JRC will be asked to focus on applying IT systems to help in the fight against crime and fraud, smuggling and illicit trafficking, the protection of critical infrastructures, counter-terrorism measures and migration and border management. Technical support to integrated border management and its inter-operability will also be provided.

4. Europe as a world partner: The JRC will be asked to conduct research on global trade as well as instruments for stability and humanitarian aid. Thus, for example, the JRC will establish a global geo-spatial database and contribute to services supporting crisis management and the development of future GMES pilot services.

ENTRY INTO FORCE: 2 January 2007.