

Procedure file

Basic information		
CNS - Consultation procedure Decision	2006/0111(CNS)	Procedure completed
Research and development: renew and modify the EC/Australia, Canada, USA, Norway, Switzerland, Korea, Japan agreements, intelligent manufacturing systems		
Subject 3.50.20 Scientific and technological cooperation and agreements		
Geographical area Canada Norway United States Australia Japan Switzerland South Korea		

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	ITRE Industry, Research and Energy		12/09/2006
		PPE-DE CHICHESTER Giles	
	Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
	AFET Foreign Affairs	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
Council of the European Union	Council configuration	Meeting	Date
	Transport, Telecommunications and Energy	2791	22/03/2007
European Commission	Commission DG	Commissioner	
	Research and Innovation	POTOČNIK Janez	

Key events			
28/06/2006	Legislative proposal published	COM(2006)0343	Summary
14/11/2006	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
23/11/2006	Vote in committee		Summary
27/11/2006	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading	A6-0418/2006	
14/12/2006	Results of vote in Parliament		
14/12/2006	Decision by Parliament	T6-0577/2006	Summary

22/03/2007	Act adopted by Council after consultation of Parliament		
22/03/2007	End of procedure in Parliament		
27/02/2008	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2006/0111(CNS)
Procedure type	CNS - Consultation procedure
Procedure subtype	International agreement
Legislative instrument	Decision
Legal basis	EC Treaty (after Amsterdam) EC 170; EC Treaty (after Amsterdam) EC 300-p2/3-a1
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	ITRE/6/39470

Documentation gateway					
Legislative proposal		COM(2006)0343	28/06/2006	EC	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading		A6-0418/2006	27/11/2006	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading		T6-0577/2006	14/12/2006	EP	Summary

Additional information	
National parliaments	IPEX
European Commission	EUR-Lex

Final act
Decision 2008/148 OJ L 053 27.02.2008, p. 0019 Summary

Research and development: renew and modify the EC/Australia, Canada, USA, Norway, Switzerland, Korea, Japan agreements, intelligent manufacturing systems

PURPOSE: to renew an agreement on intelligent manufacturing systems (IMS) between the European Community and Australia, Canada, Norway and Switzerland, Korea, Japan and the United States.

PROPOSED ACT: Council Decision.

CONTENT: the first EU Agreement on scientific and technical co-operation in the domain of intelligent manufacturing systems (IMS) with the United States, Japan, Australia, Canada, Norway, Switzerland and, later, Korea was concluded in 1997. It ran for an initial period of ten years and expired in April 2005. Due to its perceived success the Commission was given a mandate by the Council to seek a renewal of the Agreement. Negotiations on the Agreement's renewal are now complete and the purpose of this proposed Council Decision is to conclude a new ten year Agreement.

The text of the agreement takes the form of an Exchange of Letters. The specific provisions detailing the terms of the Agreement are set out in a ?Terms of Reference for a Scheme for International Cooperation in Advanced Manufacturing for Intelligent Manufacturing Systems?, found in Annex to the draft Council Decision. The Terms of Reference, or ToR, set out the objectives, management structure and terms and conditions of participating in the Agreement. Importantly, it includes a technical annex on the dissemination of information and what intellectual property rights apply to any research consequences resulting from IMS collaboration.

The ToR states that the IMS is an international and multilateral co-operation scheme the aim of which is to:

- boost industrial competitiveness;

- solve problems facing manufacturing worldwide; and
- develop advanced manufacturing technologies and systems for the benefit of humanity.

The ToR also lists the themes for research to be undertaken. These include, for example, future general modes of manufacturing systems including agile manufacturing, fractal factory, bionic manufacturing and holistic enterprise integration. Other themes relate to: clean manufacturing, minimum consumption of energy, technology innovation in the manufacturing process and improving the image of manufacturing globally. Both the Inter-regional and the Regional secretariats set up by the ToR will be responsible for providing assistance in the formation of IMS consortia for the different projects.

A number of innovations are included in the revised Agreement. For example, the IMS will now be governed by a public-private partnership deal. This is an important modification given that industry alone can not mobilise the critical mass of resources needed for funding collaborative research. The added impetus the public sector can give to the IMS will help contribute to a more coherent IMS scheme with a larger project portfolio.

In other developments, the budgetary principles for the IMS have been aligned to the requirements of the Financial Regulation applicable to the general budget of the European Communities. Were this not to have been the case the Commission would not have been able to contribute to the IMS Interregional Secretariat funded by the contributions of all signatories to the IMS Agreement.

Lastly, the ToR stipulates that the chair of the IMS governance is to rotate among the signatories to the agreement with the Chairman being responsible for setting up and managing the Inter-regional IMS Secretariat for a two and a half year period. Due to the lack of a legal base in the 1997 Agreement setting up the IMS, however, the Community had to decline the chair. To remedy this shortcoming this proposal is firstly, making the necessary legislative adjustment to allow the Community to host the interregional IMS secretariat in Europe when it is its turn to do so (expected to be in 2010 following on from Korea and Switzerland) and secondly, to seek extra funding to pay for the secretariat for the years that the Community will act as chair to the IMS.

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

Research and development: renew and modify the EC/Australia, Canada, USA, Norway, Switzerland, Korea, Japan agreements, intelligent manufacturing systems

The committee adopted the report by its chairman, Giles CHICHESTER (EPP-ED, UK), approving (under the consultation procedure) the conclusion of the agreement to renew and modify the agreement on R&D activities in the domain of intelligent manufacturing systems between the EC and Australia, Canada, the EFTA countries of Norway and Switzerland, Korea, Japan and the USA.

Research and development: renew and modify the EC/Australia, Canada, USA, Norway, Switzerland, Korea, Japan agreements, intelligent manufacturing systems

The European Parliament adopted a resolution drafted by Giles CHICHESTER (EPP-ED, UK), approving the conclusion of the agreement to renew and modify the agreement on R&D activities in the domain of intelligent manufacturing systems between the EC and Australia, Canada, the EFTA countries of Norway and Switzerland, Korea, Japan and the USA.

Research and development: renew and modify the EC/Australia, Canada, USA, Norway, Switzerland, Korea, Japan agreements, intelligent manufacturing systems

PURPOSE : to renew and modify an agreement on intelligent manufacturing systems (IMS) between the European Community and Australia, Canada, Norway and Switzerland, Korea, Japan and the United States.

LEGISLATIVE ACT : Council Decision 2008/148/EC concerning the conclusion of an Agreement in the form of an Exchange of Letters recording the common understanding renewing and modifying the Agreement on international cooperation on research and development activities in the domain of intelligent manufacturing systems (IMS) between the European Community and Australia, Canada, the EFTA countries of Norway and Switzerland, Korea, Japan and the United States of America

CONTENT: this Decision approves the above Agreement on behalf of the Community. The IMS scheme is an international and multilateral cooperation scheme in which participants work cooperatively to boost industrial competitiveness, solve problems facing manufacturing worldwide, and develop advanced manufacturing technologies and systems to benefit humanity.

The IMS agreement, which expired in April 2005, will be renewed for 10 years.

The specific provisions detailing the terms of the Agreement are set out in a ?Terms of Reference for a Scheme for International Cooperation in Advanced Manufacturing for Intelligent Manufacturing Systems?, found in Annex to the Council Decision. The Terms of Reference, or ToR, set out the objectives, management structure and terms and conditions of participating in the Agreement. It includes a technical annex on the dissemination of information and what intellectual property rights apply to any research consequences resulting from IMS collaboration.

ENTRY INTO FORCE : the Agreement shall apply from 4th January for European Community, Norway, Korea, Japan and the United States.