Proposal for a Decision of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning the production and development of Community statistics on science and technology  

(2001/C 332 E/04) 

COM(2001) 490 final — 2001/0197(COD) 

(Submitted by the Commission on 27 August 2001) 

THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION, 

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community, and in particular Article 285 thereof, 

Having regard to the proposal from the Commission, 

Acting in accordance with the procedure laid down in Article 251 of the Treaty, 

Whereas: 

(1) There is a need for comparable statistics on research and development, technological innovation and science and technology in general in order to support Community policies. 

(2) Council Decision (94/78/EC, Euratom) of 24 January 1994 establishing a multiannual programme from 1994 to 1997 for the development of Community statistics on research, development and innovation (1), highlighted the objectives to set out a Community reference framework for statistics and to establish a harmonised Community statistical information system in this field. 

(3) The final report for the programme period 1994 to 1997 emphasises that the work should be continued and that data should be made available more rapidly, that the regional coverage should be extended and that the comparability of the data must increase. 

(4) In accordance with Council Decision 1999/126/EC of 22 December 1998 establishing the Community statistical programme 1998-2002 (2), the statistical information system shall support the management of science and technology policies in the Community and assess R & D and innovation capability of regions for administration of structural funds. 

(5) In order to ensure their usefulness and comparability, the details of data to be provided by the Member States should be established by the Commission taking into account work carried out by OECD and other international organisations. 

(6) Community policy on science, technology and innovation places particular importance on strengthening the scientific and technological basis of the European businesses to be more innovative and competitive on the international and regional level, realising the benefits of the information society and promoting the transfer of technology, improving activities in the domain of intellectual property rights and the development of mobility of human resources, and promoting equality between men and women in science. 

(7) The principle of cost-effectiveness shall apply for the data collection procedures for industry and administrations, while still maintaining the necessary quality of the data. 

(8) It is essential that developments in official statistics on science and technology are coordinated to also meet the essential needs of national, regional and local administrations, international organisations, economic operators, professional associations and the general public. 

(9) Council Decision 1999/173/EC of 25 January 1999 adopting a specific programme for research, technological development and demonstration on improving the human research potential and the socio-economic knowledge base (1999 to 2002) (3) will be taken into account to avoid overlap of work. 

(10) Council Resolution 1999/C 201/01 of 20 May 1999 on women and science underlines the need for information on the participation of women in the development of science and technology. 

(11) The measures necessary for the implementation of this Decision, being management measures within the meaning of Article 2 of Council Decision 1999/468/EC of 28 June 1999 laying down the procedures for the exercise of implementing powers conferred on the Commission (4), should be adopted by use of the management procedure provided for in Article 4 of that Decision. 

(12) The Statistical Programme Committee established by Decision 89/382/EEC, Euratom (5) has been consulted in accordance with Article 3 of the aforesaid Decision. 

(13) The Scientific and Technological Research Committee (Crest) has given its opinion, 


HAVE ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

The objective of this Decision is to establish a Community statistical information system on science, technology and innovation to support and monitor Community policies.

Article 2

The objective described in Article 1 shall be implemented by individual statistical actions as follows:

— Delivery of statistics by the Member States on a regular basis and within specified deadlines, in particular statistics on R & D activity in all sectors of performance, taking into account the regional dimension, and on the funding of R & D activity, including the government budget appropriations for R & D.

— Development of new statistical variables to be produced on a permanent basis for the measurement of the output of science and technology activities, the diffusion of knowledge and more generally the performance of innovation needed for the formulation and assessment of science and technology policies in the increasingly knowledge-based economies. Priority will be given, in particular, to the following domains:
  — innovation (new and improved products and processes introduced by enterprises in the market),
  — human resources devoted to science and technology,
  — patents (patents statistics to be derived from the databases of the national and European patent offices),
  — high-technology statistics (identification and classification of products and services, measurement of economic performance and contribution to economic growth),
  — gender statistics on science and technology.

— Improvement and updating of existing standards and manuals on concepts and methods, with particular regard to concepts in the service sector and coordinated methods for measurement of R & D activity.

— Improvement to data quality, specifically comparability, accuracy and timeliness.

— Improvement to the dissemination, accessibility and documentation of statistical information.

Available capacities within the Member States for data collection and processing will be taken into account.

Article 3

The measures necessary for the implementation of this Decision shall be decided in accordance with the procedure referred to in Article 4.

Article 4

1. The Commission shall be assisted by the Statistical Programme Committee instituted by Article 1 of Decision 89/382/EEC, Euratom.

2. Where reference is made to this paragraph, the management procedure laid down in Article 4 of Decision 1999/468/EC shall apply, in compliance with Articles 7(3) and 8 thereof.

3. The period provided for in Article 4(3) of Decision 1999/468/EC shall be three months.

Article 5

The Commission shall, within five years of the entry into force of this Decision, and again every five years thereafter, present a report to the European Parliament and the Council to evaluate the implementation of the measures provided for in Article 2.

This report shall consider, inter alia, the costs of the actions and the burden on the respondents in relation to the benefits of the availability of the data and user satisfaction.

Following this report, the Commission may propose any measures to improve the operation of this Decision.

Article 6

This Decision is addressed to the Member States.

Article 7

This Decision shall enter into force on the 20th day following its publication in the Official Journal of the European Communities.