

COUNCIL DECISION

of 18 March 1975

adopting an initial three-year Community plan of action in the field of scientific and technical information and documentation

(75/200/EEC)

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community, and in particular Article 235 thereof;

Having regard to the proposal from the Commission;

Having regard to the Opinion of the European Parliament ⁽¹⁾;

Having regard to the Opinion of the Economic and Social Committee ⁽²⁾;

Noting the report by the Scientific and Technical Information and Documentation Committee (STIDC) and the Opinion of the Scientific and Technical Research Committee (CREST);

Whereas on 24 June 1971 the resolution of the Council and of the representatives of the Member States ⁽³⁾ meeting in the Council was adopted with a view to coordinating the action of the Member States regarding scientific and technical information and documentation (STID);

Whereas the Heads of State or of Government, meeting in Paris on 19 and 20 October 1972, expressed their determination to define the objectives and to ensure the development of a common policy in the field of science and technology;

Whereas, under Article 2 of the Treaty, the Community shall have as one of its tasks to promote throughout the Community a harmonious development of economic activities and continuous and balanced expansion;

Whereas the proliferation of information systems and their rapid but disparate progress through competition between multiple public and private ventures make the establishment of the European information and documentation network envisaged in the resolution of 24 June 1971 a matter of urgency;

Whereas the establishment of this network is likely to make an effective contribution to the achievement of the abovementioned objectives of the Treaty;

Whereas the Treaty has not provided for the necessary powers;

Whereas, on 14 January 1974, the Council adopted a resolution ⁽⁴⁾ concerning an initial outline programme of the European Communities in the field of science and technology,

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1

An initial Community plan of action in the field of scientific and technical information and documentation as contained in the Annex is hereby adopted to take effect for three years as from 1 January 1975.

Article 2

The Commission shall implement the plan of action, assisted by the Scientific and Technical Information and Documentation Committee (STIDC), and shall keep the Committee and the Scientific and Technical Research Committee (CREST) regularly informed of progress. The Commission shall also submit each year to the Council and the European Parliament a full report on the subject which will be taken up in the general report.

Article 3

The expenditure necessary for the implementation of the plan of action in 1975 shall be indicated in the Annex.

Article 4

The Commission shall decide on the particulars of the activities to be carried out under the plan of action in 1976 and 1977 after consultation with STIDC and CREST.

On this basis, the Commission shall determine the estimates of expenditure for 1976 and 1977 under budgetary procedure.

Done at Brussels, 18 March 1975.

For the Council

The President

R. RYAN

⁽¹⁾ OJ No C 32, 11. 2. 1975, p. 7.

⁽²⁾ OJ No C 47, 27. 2. 1975, p. 38.

⁽³⁾ OJ No C 122, 10. 12. 1971, p. 7.

⁽⁴⁾ OJ No C 7, 29. 1. 1974, p. 6.

ANNEX

INITIAL THREE-YEAR COMMUNITY PLAN OF ACTION IN THE FIELD OF
SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL INFORMATION AND DOCUMENTATION

The expenditure necessary for the implementation of the plan of action is estimated at 1 840 000 units of account for 1975. To ensure the progress of the plan of action, the amounts for 1976 and 1977 are estimated at 2.3 million and 2.5 million units of account respectively on the basis of 1974 prices. The exact amounts for 1976 and 1977 will be laid down in the budget of the European Communities.

The objectives of the plan of action comprise particularly:

1. Sectoral information systems

The rapid development of sectoral information systems and their integration into the planned European information and documentation network involves:

- establishing Community systems which are to be made compatible with the network, for example in the agricultural and environmental sectors;
- examining the need for the creation of new systems in selected sectors;
- and fostering rationalization and development of various worthwhile private ventures, particularly in the industrial sphere.

The sum allocated for this purpose in 1975 is 550 000 units of account.

2. Establishment of the information network

Feasibility and pilot studies will constitute the essential starting point. Specifications for hardware and software will then be drawn up and standards defined for the management of the network and its interaction with users. Only then will the first software be developed,

hardware and telecommunication lines gradually installed and the phased adaption of specialized Member State information systems to the network be undertaken.

The sum allocated for this purpose in 1975 is 660 000 units of account

3. Information technology and methodology

This covers:

- support activities aimed at establishing effective multilingual systems and standard formats for information exchanges;
- the training of specialists in information technology and the education of users;
- and the improvement of systems methodology, data banks and information and analysis centres.

The sum allocated for this purpose in 1975 is 630 000 units of accounts.

Measures to achieve the above objectives will in the main assume the form of contracts with specialist bodies in the Member States and may in appropriate circumstances be extended to bodies in non-member countries in accordance with the Council resolutions of 24 June 1971 and 14 January 1974.

Moreover, the financing in 1976 and 1977 of the conversion of national scientific and technical information and documentation systems to the European network standards and, in particular, the allocation of the burden of expenditure between the Member States and the Community should be examined in detail and agreed upon at the appropriate time.