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In accordance with Council Regulation (EEC, Euratom) No 354/83 of 1 February 1983 concerning the opening to the public of the historical archives of the European Economic Community and the European Atomic Energy Community (OJ L 43, 15.2.1983, p. 1), as amended by Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1700/2003 of 22 September 2003 (OJ L 243, 27.9.2003, p. 1), this file is open to the public. Where necessary, classified documents in this file have been declassified in conformity with Article 5 of the aforementioned regulation.

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COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

COM(84) 642 final

Brussels, 21 November 1984

Communication from the Commission to the Council

Signature on behalf of the European Communities of the memorandum of understanding for the implementation of a project for international scientific and technical collaboration on advanced materials and standards (VAMAS)



COM(84) 642 final

SUMMARY

This communication request the Council for authorization to sign on behalf of the Communities a memorandum of understanding for the implementation of a project for international scientific and technical collaboration on advanced materials and standards (VAMAS).

This project stems for the activities of the Working Group on Technology, Growth and Employment set up by the Heads of State and of Government at the Versailles Summit Meeting in June 1982. Its aim is to define the scientific and technical bases for drafting standards and specifications on new materials making use of advanced technologies. It incorporates some of the Community activities planned or under way in the field of applied metrology and reference materials and raw materials. It will be carried out by way of concerted action projects involving no additional expenditure from the Community budget.

Subject : Signature on behalf of the European Communities of the memorandum of understanding on the implementation of a project for international scientific and technical collaboration on advanced materials and standards (VAMAS).

A memorandum of understanding on a project for international scientific and technical collaboration on advanced materials and standards (VAMAS) has been drafted and approved by an international Working Group chaired jointly by the United Kingdom and the United States of America. (1) This project stems from the activities of the Working Group on Technology, Growth and Employment set up by the Heads of State and of Government at the Versailles Summit Meeting in June 1982, the members of which represent, in addition to the European Communities, the Federal Republic of Germany, France, Italy, the United Kingdom, Canada, the United States of America and Japan. Six of these have already given the names of the Ministers (or persons of equivalent standing) who are to sign this memorandum before the end of 1984.

The costs of the project, which will run for five years and may be extended, will be divided amongst the signatories with no transfer of funds between the parties concerned. It contains the following provisions :

- objective :

the definition of scientific and technical bases of drafting standards and specifications for new materials making use of advanced technologies;

- procedures :

the collaboration will be on a work-sharing research basis, in which each participating member will carry out a specific complementary part of a larger project and in turn obtain access to the total research output of that project.

Through its current or planned research projects, the Community is able to make an effective contribution to this project. This will consist of some of the results of the R&D programmes in the following fields :

(1) See Annex.

- applied metrology and reference materials (CBR) (1983-1987) (OJ No L 26/48 of 28 January 1983),
- raw materials (1982-1985) (OJ L 174/23 of 21 June 1982, as amended in OJ No L 181/24 of 6 July 1983 and L 357/33 of 21 December 1983).

The parts of these programmes that come within the field covered by this memorandum will have to be determined in cooperation with the various management and coordination advisory committees for the Community programmes in question.

Participation in this project will enable the Community :

- automatically to associate all the Community countries in the international project via the Community programmes,
- to improve trade with non-member countries by adopting common international standards.

In view of the nature of the proposed cooperation, the signature of this memorandum of understanding by the Communities does not involve :

- any legal consequences or obligations,
- any additional expenditure from the Community budget.

Decision requested

The Commission therefore requests the Council for the authorization to sign on behalf of the Communities the memorandum of understanding on the implementation of a project for international scientific and technical collaboration on advanced materials and standards (VAMAS).

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
FOR COLLABORATION ON ADVANCED MATERIALS AND STANDARDS

THE UNDERSIGNED PARTIES

CONSIDERING

- the Agreement of the Working Group on Technology, Growth and Employment established by the Economic Summit Meeting held in Versailles, 1982;
- the recommendations of the Working Group on collaborative research aimed to promote improvements in advanced materials and standards;
- the endorsement of the report of the Working Group by the Heads of Government at the Economic Meeting in Williamsburg, in 1983;
- the spirit of the cooperation as it derives from the Summit Declaration namely, a common commitment to encourage the setting up of codes of practice and specifications on an internationally coordinated basis, as a contribution to removing technical barriers to, and promoting the development of trade in new technologies;

PROPOSE

collaboration between the parties to the Memorandum on research into Advanced Materials and Standards the arrangements for which are set out in the following articles.

ARTICLE I - SCOPE AND OBJECTIVES OF COOPERATION

The scope of the cooperation embraces work on enabling scientific and technological research in advanced engineering materials, the work having the clear aim of providing the technical basis for drafting Codes of Practice and Specifications in these materials.

ARTICLE II - SCOPE OF INVOLVEMENT

Each of the signatory parties will be free to enter into one or more of the individual work projects.

ARTICLE III - MODALITIES OF COOPERATION

The manner of collaboration will be on a work-sharing research basis, in which each participating member agrees to carry out

a specific complementary component of a larger project and in turn obtain access to the total research output of that project.

A Steering Committee will be appointed having at most three delegates from each participating country appointed by its Government. This Committee will be responsible for setting up the appropriate technical structures for cooperative research. Each technical area will be managed by a Technical Working Group.

ARTICLE IV - FUNDING SOURCES

The activities carried out under this Memorandum will be subject to and dependent upon funds and manpower available to the parties. There will be no transfer of funds between countries unless such arrangements are made between the parties concerned.

ARTICLE V - PROGRAMME MONITORING

The Steering Committee which should meet at least once a year, will review and report progress on all the activities carried out under this Memorandum; in addition, it should exchange views and act upon proposals for any future activities.

ARTICLE VI - RESEARCH OUTPUT

There will be free exchange of research output also among the participating parties in a specific technical area. Each party will be free to use the total information in order to help prepare standards or specifications directly with their national standards organisation. With the agreement of all the parties, draft standards will be recommended to the International Standards Organisation as a basis for standards having international status.

All parties will respect confidentially in the research output unless or until agreed otherwise. Further specific conditions relating to the confidentiality of results may be imposed by agreement according to the particular project.

ARTICLE VII - PARTICIPATION BY OTHER COUNTRIES

With the unanimous agreement of all parties other countries may enter into this collaboration.

ARTICLE VIII - LIMITATION OF LIABILITY

No party to this Memorandum will accept a liability nor assert a claim against any other for damages arising from activities under this Memorandum.

ARTICLE IX - DURATION OF AGREEMENT

This Memorandum shall enter into force upon signature by all parties and remain in force for five years. It may be extended by mutual agreement.

Any party may terminate its participation under this Memorandum upon receipt by all other parties of six months written notice of termination.

This Memorandum may be amended only by the unanimous agreement of all parties

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
FOR COLLABORATION OF ADVANCED MATERIALS AND STANDARDS

Collaboration is agreed by the undersigned parties on the basis of this Memorandum of Understanding.

Canada

France

Federal Republic
of Germany

Italy

Japan

United Kingdom

United States
of America

Commission of
the European
Communities

TERMS OF REFERENCE STEERING COMMITTEE ADVANCED MATERIALS AND STANDARDS

1. The purpose of the Steering Committee is to pursue the recommendations of the Working Group set up at the Versailles Summit Meeting in 1982 which relate to collaboration on advanced materials and standards, as agreed in the Memorandum of Understanding.
2. To this end, the Committee will plan and monitor projects on engineering materials with the output clearly aimed at providing the technical basis for drafting Codes of Practice and Specifications in Advanced Materials, as outlined in the document "Advanced Materials and Standards". The scope of the collaboration will embrace all aspects of enabling science and technology - data banks, test methods, design methods, materials metrology - which are required as a precursor to the drafting of Standards in Advanced Materials.
3. The Committee will be composed of delegations of up to three members from each of the signatory parties to the Memorandum of Understanding. The delegates will be appointed by their governments. All decisions will be arrived at by consensus of those present.
4. The Committee will appoint Technical Working Parties which will formulate programmes and agree to the allocation of work schedules among the participating members.
5. The Committee should meet at least once a year to review progress in the work programmes for each of the selected subject areas, to approve proposals formally and to consider new proposals put forward since the last meeting.
6. The Committee will report annually to all parties to the Memorandum of Understanding.
7. A secretariat for the Committee will be provided by the United Kingdom or the United States of America.

VAMAS

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR TECHNICAL WORKING PARTIES

1. Technical Working Parties will plan and execute projects on engineering materials aimed at providing the technical basis for drafting Codes of Practice and Specification in Advanced Materials. The primary responsibility of the Working Parties is to provide leadership and guidance for the research carried out in individual areas.
2. The Working Parties should :
 - formulate collaborative programmes with definite objectives and time scales;
 - allocate tasks to participating organizations as far as possible according to the principle of established excellence in the specific aspect of the work and encourage broad-scale participation from other organizations with competence in the areas of activity or with need to implement results of the research;
 - coordinate and monitor progress in research;
 - report annually to the Steering Committee on progress in the various topics; and
 - encourage the ultimate transfer of the results to potential beneficiaries in participating countries.

In formulating programmes the working party will take into account :

 - the importance of the area in terms of potential for advancement of technology, growth and employment,
 - the involvement of advanced materials technology,
 - the significance for standards,
 - the probability of implementation of the results.
3. The Technical Working Parties are established by, and operate under their purview of, the Steering Committee of VAMAS. The Chairman will be appointed by the Steering Committee. Participants of Technical Working Parties should be appointed by the delegates of their country on the Steering Committee with concurrence of the Chairman of the Working Party.

4. The Technical Working Parties will be expected to organize meetings as and when necessary to fulfill their functions.
5. The Technical Working Parties should ensure as far as reasonably possible that each partner makes an appropriate level of contribution in a technical area.
6. The output of each party will be freely communicated to all other contributors to a program; there will be free exchange of information at all meetings of Technical Working Parties.
7. No information obtained by participation in a Technical Working Area may be passed to nonparticipating parties without permission of the Steering Committee.

VERSAILLES WORKING GROUP ON TECHNOLOGY, GROWTH AND EMPLOYMENT

ADVANCED MATERIALS AND STANDARDS

SUMMARY

All industrialized countries recognize the critical importance of the materials used in mechanical, constructional and electronic engineering. Suitable materials with advanced properties and performance will be the rate determining step in the introduction of new technologies and new industries. It is the crucial step which requires a concentrated attention at an international level. The advantages of advanced materials include improved technical performance and cost reduction in manufactured products. The essence of the present proposal is the encouragement of the setting up of codes of practice and specifications in advanced materials. Such codes create the conditions and the confidence in the rapid adoption of materials by industry. An additional benefit is that new materials provide a gearing effect, in that they enlarge technological perspectives and catalyse innovation. The provision of advanced materials standards requires the enabling technology - horizontal activities involving advanced testing, predictive and investigative techniques, data bases and the use of large centralized test equipment. In addition, specific projects will be aimed to develop standards on new materials, such as composites or engineering ceramics and also on improved existing materials and processes such as the joining technologies and materials produced by recycling. Accordingly, we propose setting up an international collaborative function to provide the research base necessary for the preparation of codes of practice and standards on advanced materials, and to operate in the first instance over a five year period. This will be conducted on a flexible basis, using the "COST" club activity as a model, by which each participating member employs existing resources. When the detailed technological gaps are identified, programmes will be devised and carried out internationally on an "à la carte" basis. To achieve the main objective of this proposal, the agreement of international standards and codes of practice on advanced materials, we propose that recommendations arising from this collaboration be taken up by the International Standards Organization as a basis for standards having international status.