

COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

COM(90) 179 final - SYN 121

Brussels, 15 May 1990

Proposal for a
COUNCIL DECISION

amending Decision 89/118/EEC on a
European stimulation plan for economic science
(1989 - 1992) (SPES)

(presented by the Commission)

BACKGROUND

1. On adopting on 13 February 1989 a European stimulation plan for economic science (1989-1992)(SPES), the Council gave the Commission the responsibility of implementing a range of measures aimed at improving the training of young economists the stimulation of mobility and intra-European cooperation between community economists.
2. A Community action is particularly relevant and necessary for economic science because it involves a subject which, by its very nature, has an international dimension directly linked to the objectives of the Community and where it is advisable to take into account the European dimension for the study of major Community questions.
3. The Community action launched in February 1989 immediately stimulated a great interest amongst the Community scientists concerned, confirming the needs which had been expressed by them as well as by the Council, the European Parliament, the Economic and Social Committee and the Commission, needs which were the origin of the initiative taken by the Commission in March 1988 in proposing the SPES Plan.
4. Within several months, the Commission had received a large number of expressions of interest (5 000 requests for information in 10 months) of which a substantial number gave rise to joint proposals or to European networks (166 proposals for an amount in the region of ECU 22 million bringing together 793 teams had been submitted between 1 April and 1 November 1989). The evaluation of these proposals showed that the majority of them concerned subjects which were of great interest and came from quality research teams.
5. Taking into account the financial means available, only a small proportion of these "quality" requests could be financed : 22 proposals involving 62 teams for an amount in the region of ECU 1 650 000 (or 13% of the requests considered on 1 October 1989).
6. The analysis of the subject areas affected by these Community show on the other hand that while the subjects specifically linked to European integration are well represented, other important questions are without doubt insufficiently represented. This applies particularly to questions linked to the development of tools of economic performance such as precise economic models incorporating financial aspects (including interest and exchange rates) or indicators which allow the assessment of the economic impact of new technologies, in particular as regards in the protection of the environment.
7. Without anticipating the conclusions of the evaluation which will be undertaken in 1991 in accordance with the Decision 89/11/EEC, the inadequate level of funding available in relation to the needs to which the Community must respond can already be seen.

8. In its proposal for a Framework Programme 1987-1991, the Commission had expressed its intention to take measures aimed at supporting and retaining high level researchers in the Community. To this end, an amount of ECU 4 million had been reserved for an experimental action for the "Stimulation of European cooperation and S/T exchanges" (line 8.1 of the 1987-1991 Framework Programme).
9. In view of the possibilities offered by the SCIENCE Plan as adopted by the Council (Decision 88/419/EEC) it appears that the objectives envisaged for this experimental action could be achieved with the help of the modalities available under the SCIENCE Plan (research grants).
10. In this situation and taking into account the existing needs of economic science, the Commission considers that it is necessary to revise the cost estimate and to reinforce the financial base of the stimulation plan for economic science with the ECU 4 million currently available.
11. The Commission therefore requests the Council to agree to the draft Decision which follows in order that it can proceed with a stimulation action for economic science to respond more adequately to the needs encountered.

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amending Decision 89/118/EEC on a
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THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community and in particular Article 130q(2) thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the Commission⁽¹⁾,

In cooperation with the European Parliament⁽²⁾,

Having regard to the opinion of the Economic and Social Committee⁽³⁾,

Whereas Article 130k of the Treaty provides that the implementation of the Framework Programme is to be carried out by means of its action lines; whereas the Council, in deciding by Decision 87/516/Euratom, EEC⁽⁴⁾ the Community Framework Programme for research and technological development (1987-1991), recognizes the interest of such a stimulation action;

Whereas Council Decision 89/118/EEC⁽⁵⁾ adopted a pluriannual research and development Programme for the Community in the field of economic sciences;

Whereas the Framework Programme, amongst the evaluation criteria for each programme and the selection of Community actions, provides for the contribution to the strengthening of the economic and social cohesion of the Community, while respecting the objectives of scientific and technical quality;

Whereas certain recent and important questions in economic science, for example precise economic models incorporating financial aspects and above all indicators which allow the appreciation of the environmental impact of new technologies, require urgent action by the Community taking into account the vital relationship between the means available for the adopted plan and the quality of the proposals received by the Commission;

Whereas economic science aims to increase the wealth and productivity of the economy as a whole;

Whereas the Committee for Scientific and Technological Research (CREST) has been consulted,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

(1) OJ.

(2) OJ

(3) OJ

(4) OJ No L 302, 24.10.1987, p. 1.

(5) OJ No L 44, 16.2.1989, p. 43.

Article 1

Decision 89/118/EEC is hereby amended as follows:

1. The first paragraph of Article 3 is replaced by the following:

"The funds estimated as necessary for the execution of the programme amount to ECU 10 million for the period 1989 to 1992, including expenditure on a staff of three."

2. The following is added to point 4 of the Annex:

" viii: Microeconomics

ix: problems of the evaluation of the economic impact of environmental risks

x: The problems of economic relations between Western Europe and Eastern Europe".

Article 2

This Decision is addressed to the Member States.

Done at

For the Council

The President

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

1. Budgetary line : 7382

Title of the action:

Plan to stimulate cooperation and exchange between researchers in economic science.

2. Legal base

Article 130q(2) of the EEC Treaty

3. Definition of the action:

The stimulation programme includes the following actions:

- . European doctoral scholarships awarded to students from Community countries to carry out a part of their studies in a research institute in a Community country other than their own;
- . post-doctoral research grants awarded to Community researchers to enable them to work in a research institute situated in a country other than their own. These grants can be in the form of a lump-sum (fellowship) or may cover only certain costs such as travel, subsistence and/or costs associated with the research itself;
- . subsidies for projects and research networks, high-level training courses, scientific meetings (conferences, seminars, workshops), studies and inquiries as well as for the facilitation of access to databases.

4. Justification for the action:

On the 28 June 1983, the Council approved the aim of "improving the effectiveness of the scientific and technical potential of the Community" among those of the Framework Programme of Community R&D activities.⁽¹⁾

The Single European Act specifies (Article 130) that the Commission must undertake stimulation action in training.

The Council of 28 September 1987 approved the aim of "A researcher's Europe" among those for support under the 1987-1991 Framework Programme of Community R&D activities.⁽²⁾

(1) OJ No L181, 6.7.1983, p.20.

(2) OJ No L302, 24.10.1987 p.1 .

The Council of 29 June 1988, adopted the new plan (1988-92) for the stimulation of international cooperation and interchange needed by European researchers (SCIENCE)⁽³⁾ which is still limited to the exact sciences but at the same time has recognised the necessity of extending the action to all areas of science.

The Council of 13 February 1989⁽⁴⁾ adopted a European plan for the stimulation of economic science (1989-1992) (SPES) which constitutes an opening up of Community activities in research and development to economic sciences.

5. Financial Implications

1. Type of expenditure

a) Personnel:

I. SPES:

For 1990 the personnel is comprised of one "A" grade and one new "C" grade.

The new "C" is only taken into account for 6 months of the first year. For 91/92 an increase of 4% a year is taken into account.

The costs of business travel are included in the amounts mentioned.

II) Revision of SPES: For the revision of SPES, a new grade "A" is planned for 1991 calculating as before a ½ "A" the first year with an increase of 4% the following years.

The costs of business travel are included in the amounts mentioned.

b) Administration: 4 E-CODEST meetings are planned per year.

c) Contracts:

- European doctoral fellowships, post-doctoral research grants;

(3) OJ No L 206, 30.7.1988, p. 34.

(4) OJ No L 44, 16.2.1989, p. 43.

- Subsidies for networks and/or multinational research projects.
- Subsidies for the organisation of high level training courses, including summer schools and scientific meetings as well as facilitating access to databases.
- Study contracts
- Expert contracts

2. Total cost

ECU 10 million for the 1989-1992 period of the stimulation plan. ECU 6 million for Decision 89/118/EEC of 13 February 1989 (SPES) and ECU 4 million for the period 1991-1992 for the revision of the programme.

3. Breakdown

(in mECU)

(Forecast)

Commitment Appropriations

	Budget 1989	Budget 1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	TOTAL
<u>SPES:</u>							
Personnel (1+9)	.0865	.1315	.165	.170			.553
Administr. (2+3)	.049	.0425	.045	.046			.1825
Contracts (5)	.8645	1.826	1.790	.784			5.2645
S/Total	1.000	2.000	2.000	1.000	pm		6.000
<u>Revision of SPES</u>							
Personnel (1+9)		0	.055	.107			.162
Administration (2+3)		0	0	0			0
Contracts (5)		0	1.345	2.493			3.838
S/Total			1.400	2.600	pm		4.000
Total	1.000	2.000	3.400	3.600	pm		10.000

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DOCUMENTS

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