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*(Information)***COUNCIL****RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL AND OF THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE GOVERNMENTS OF
THE MEMBER STATES, MEETING WITHIN THE COUNCIL****of 21 June 1999****concerning the expiry of the Treaty establishing the European Coal and Steel Community**

(1999/C 190/01)

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION AND THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE MEMBER STATES OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES MEETING WITHIN THE COUNCIL,

RECALLING:

- the resolution of the European Council on growth and employment adopted in Amsterdam on 16 and 17 June 1997, according to which the Commission is invited to make the appropriate proposals in order to ensure that, on expiry in 2002 of the Treaty establishing the European Coal and Steel Community (hereafter referred to as 'the ECSC'), the revenues of outstanding reserves are used for a research fund for sectors related to the coal and steel industries (hereafter referred to as the 'fund,'
- the Commission's communication on the expiry of the ECSC Treaty — Financial Activities of 10 October 1997,
- The resolution of the Council and of the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States, meeting within the Council of 20 July 1998 concerning the expiry of the Treaty establishing the European Coal and Steel Community ⁽¹⁾, and in particular points 3(d) and 4(c) thereof,
- The Commission's contribution of 17 November 1998 to the study referred to at points 2(c), 5 and 6 of the said resolution of 20 July 1998,

1. CONSIDER THAT, in relation to the ownership of the ECSC assets and liabilities:

- (a) these assets and liabilities should revert to the Communities remaining;
- (b) in order to ensure separation of the assets and liabilities from other Community funds a balance sheet of the 'ECSC in liquidation' should be made out, as an Annex of the Communities' general assets and liabilities while consolidating the sum of the balance sheet in the Communities' assets and liabilities and that the profit and loss account shall be dealt with in a similar way;
- (c) after the end of the liquidation of the ECSC, the assets generating the fund revenue shall be called the 'Coal and Steel Research Assets';
- (d) the cost of the Commission's management of the assets or of the fund respectively, will be borne by the Commission from the general budget of the European Communities;
- (e) all contributions to the assets or the fund respectively, shall accrue to it.

2. FURTHERMORE, CONSIDER THAT:

- (a) the question of the contributions of future Member States to the assets or fund respectively should be clarified during the accession negotiations, taking into account the decisions reached on previous similar occasions;

⁽¹⁾ OJ C 247, 7.8.1998, p. 5.

- (b) the breakdown of research allocations between the sectors of coal and steel and their related sectors should be confirmed in the final Decision of the Council and of the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States, meeting within the Council on the expiry of the ECSC Treaty on the basis of the Commission's contribution of 17 November 1998.

3. INVITE THE COMMISSION:

to submit in good time a proposal for a Decision containing measures necessary for implementing the contents of this resolution.

RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL

of 24 June 1999

on the management of Agreements on mutual recognition

(1999/C 190/02)

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

UNDERLINING the importance of mutual recognition of conformity assessment as a means to reduce technical barriers to trade and to promote trade between the Community and third countries;

RECALLING that the Council on 21 September 1992 adopted a decision authorising the Commission to negotiate Agreements between the Community and certain third countries on mutual recognition relating to conformity assessment;

RECALLING that, as a result of successful negotiations, the European Community has been able to conclude Mutual Recognition Agreements (MRA) with Australia, Canada, New Zealand and the United States of America;

NOTING that the objective of these Agreements is to provide effective market access throughout the territories of the Parties for all products covered by the Agreements;

RECALLING the Council Conclusions adopted on 26 June 1997 concerning standards and conformity assessment;

EMPHASING the importance of the Council being actively involved in the preparation, negotiation as well as the implementation phases of Mutual Recognition Agreements;

STRESSING the need to develop guiding principles for the management of Mutual Recognition Agreements in order to achieve a more efficient and coherent system,

1. INVITES the Commission to present a proposal for guiding principles for the management of Mutual Recognition Agreements covering the preparation, negotiation and implementation phases and to draw up a draft model agreement as a basis for negotiations and conclusions of future such Agreements, taking into account the experience gained from already concluded agreements.
 2. INVITES the Commission also to develop a vade-mecum containing an explanation of the Mutual Recognition Agreements, as well as a guide for all Community parties concerned regarding the implementation of these Agreements. Such a vade-mecum should also explain the decision-making function of the respective MRA Committees as well as the coordination of the decision-making process (horizontal and sectoral) within the Community.
 3. CALLS ON the Member States to lend their full support to effective implementation of Mutual Recognition Agreements, including sectoral annexes.
 4. CALLS ON the Commission to establish regular reports on interim results regarding the implementation of existing Mutual Recognition Agreements.
 5. TAKES NOTE with satisfaction of the Commission's intention to ensure a timely planning of meetings of Mutual Recognition Agreement Committees and a proper Community preparation and coordination of such meetings.
 6. REQUESTS the Commission to inform the Council before the end of 1999 on progress in these regards.
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