COUNCIL DECISION

of 6 March 1978

adopting a multiannual research and development programme (1978 to 1981) for the European Economic Community in the field of primary raw materials (indirect action)

(78/263/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),

Whereas, pursuant to Article 2 of the Treaty, the Community has the task of promoting throughout the Community a harmonious development of economic activities, a continuous and balanced expansion and an accelerated raising of the standard of living ;

Whereas, in its resolution of 14 January 1974 on a first action programme of the European Communities in the field of science and technology (3), the Council stated that the whole range of available ways and means should be used as appropriate, including indirect action ;

Whereas the Community depends to a great extent on third countries for its supplies of mineral raw materials ; whereas these materials will become increasingly scarce throughout the world and it is thus in the Community's interest to increase its self-supply potential and to improve the technologies employed in prospecting for and exploiting mineral resources ;

Whereas a Community research project in the field of primary raw materials is likely to contribute effectively to the achievement of the abovementioned objectives, particularly through the discovery of exploitable internal resources and through the development of exportable techniques and technologies ;

Whereas the Treaty does not provide the specific powers necessary for this purpose ;

Whereas the European Parliament adopted on 19 April 1977 a resolution on the supply of raw materials to the Community ;

Whereas the Scientific and Technical Research Committee (CREST) has given its opinion concerning the proposal from the Commission,

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS :

Article 1

For a four-year period from 1 January 1978, the Community shall carry out a research and development programme in the field of primary raw materials as described in the Annex.

Article 2

The upper limit of expenditure commitments necessary for the implementation of this programme shall be 18 million European units of account, the European unit of account being defined by the Financial Regulations applicable, and the maximum number of staff shall be eight.

Article 3

The Commission shall be responsible for implementing the programme. To assist it in this task an Advisory Committee on Research and Development Programme Management in the Field of Primary Raw Materials shall be established, the terms of reference and composition of which shall be defined in accordance with the Council resolution of 18 July 1977 on advisory committees on research programme management (4).

Article 4

During the third year the programme shall be reviewed ; this review may lead to a revision of the programme in accordance with the appropriate procedures after the Advisory Committee on Programme Management has been consulted. The European Parliament shall be informed of such revision.

Within the framwork of its general report the Commission shall also submitt a report to the European Parliament on the implementation of the programme.

(1) OJ No C 299, 12. 12. 1977, p. 44.
(2) OJ No C 18, 23. 1. 1978, p. 12.
(3) OJ No C 7, 29. 1. 1974, p. 6.
(4) OJ No C 192, 11. 8. 1977, p. 1.

Article 5

The European Parliament shall be informed of the results achieved and the funds used.

Article 6

The information resulting from the execution of the programme shall be disseminated in accordance with Council Regulation (EEC) No 2380/74 of 17 September 1974 adopting provisions for the dissemination of information relating to research prgrammes for the European Economic Community [1].

Done at Brussels, 6 March 1978.

For the Council

The President

P. DALSAGER

[1] OJ No L 255, 20. 9. 1974, p. 1.

ANNEX

RESEARCH AREA I — EXPLORATION

I. A. **Deep-seated and concealed ore deposits in the territory of the Community :**

— target selection through the improvement of geological knowledge.

I. B. **Improvement and development of prospection methods and techniques :**

— geochemical,
— geophysical,
— remote sensing,
— drilling techniques.

RESEARCH AREA II — ORE PROCESSING

II. A. **Feasibility studies and setting up of models**

II. B. **Specific actions in ore processing and metal extraction :**

— *in situ* leaching,
— alternative sources of alumina,
— complex lead-zinc ores,
— chlorination processes and others.

RESEARCH AREA III — MINING TECHNOLOGY

III. A. **Deep mines**

III. B. **High grade — low tonnage deposits**

Research work will be carried out by way of contracts.