COUNCIL DECISION

of 29 June 1988

adopting a research and development programme for the European Economic Community in the field of applied metrology and chemical analysis (1988 to 1992)

(88/418/EEC)

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 the Community has assigned itself the objective of achieving the internal market by the end of 1992 for which it has undertaken the task of eliminating technical trade barriers mainly through the harmonization of standard and technical regulations;

Whereas Article 130K of the Treaty provides for the implementation of the framework programme to be carried out by means of specific programmes developed within each activity;

Whereas the framework programme for Community activities in the field of research and technological development adopted by the Council in its Decision 87/516/Euratom, EEC (4) for the period 1987 to 1991 includes support for the application of technical standards;

Whereas the elimination of supplementary technical barriers requires that the laboratories of the Member States have the technical means necessary to ensure the uniform application of standards, technical regulations and directives;

Whereas, to achieve this aim, it is important that the Community supports collaborative activities having as their objective the harmonization of the measurements and chemical analyses in the Member States so as to ensure concordance of the results of tests and controls;

Whereas, to maximize the effect of this work, the results achieved should be widely disseminated and publicized in the appropriate circles;

Whereas work on metrology and chemical analysis in progress in some EFTA States could usefully be coordinated with Community work under the present programme;

Whereas the Scientific and Technical Research Committee (Crest) has expressed its opinion,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

1. A research and development programme for the European Economic Community in the field of applied metrology and chemical analysis as defined in Annex I, is hereby adopted for a period of five years with effect from 1 January 1988.

2. Experimental work shall be carried out under contract. The participants may be industrial organizations, research institutes, laboratories and universities established in the Community.

Article 2

The funds estimated as necessary for the execution of the programme amount to 59,2 million ECU, including expenditure on a staff of 32.

Article 3

The Commission shall be responsible for the execution of the programme. It shall be assisted in its function of programme management by the Management and Coordination Advisory Committee (CGC) (Scientific and Technological Standards) set up by Decision 84/338/Euratom, ECSC, EEC (1).

(1) OJ No C 304, 14. 11. 1987, p. 4 and OJ No C 66, 11. 3. 1988, p. 5.
(2) OJ No C 13, 18. 1. 1988, p. 75 and OJ No C 187, 18. 7. 1988.
(3) OJ No C 35, 8. 2. 1988, p. 3.
(4) OJ No L 302, 24. 10. 1987, p. 1.

(1) OJ No L 177, 4. 7. 1984, p. 25.

Article 4

1. The Commission is authorized to negotiate, in accordance with Article 130N of the Treaty, agreements with non-member States and international organizations, in particular with those countries participating in European cooperation in the field of scientific and technological research (COST), and those having concluded framework agreements in scientific and technological cooperation with the Community with a view to associating them wholly or partly with the programme.

2. These agreements, which are founded on the criterion of mutual advantage, are concluded by the Council, deciding by qualified majority, in cooperation with the European Parliament.

Article 5

The Commission shall address a report to the Council and to the European Parliament at the end of the third year on the basis of an evaluation of the results so far achieved. This report shall be accompanied by suggestions for changes which may be necessary in the light of these results.

At the end of the programme, the Commission shall send to Member States and the European Parliament a report on the performance and results of the programme.

The abovementioned reports will be carried out having regard to the evaluation criteria set out in Annex II to this decision and in accordance with the provisions of Article 2 (2) of the framework programme set out in Decision 87/516/Euratom, EEC.

Article 6

This Decision shall apply with effect from 1 January 1988.

Article 7

This Decision is addressed to the Member States.

Done at Luxembourg, 29 June 1988.

For the Council

The President

H. RIESENHUBER

ANNEX I

Programme summary

The objective of the programme is to improve the reliability of chemical analyses and physical measurements (applied metrology) so as to achieve agreement of results in all Member States.

The projects will be chosen from those fields which are of priority importance for the Community as judged from an economic, environmental or public health view point.

The priority fields are the following:

(a) analyses for food and agriculture, in particular:

- analyses in livestock (foodstuffs, hormones, antibiotics, etc.) and of the quality of cereals, fruit and vegetables,
- analyses of the quality of processed food (nutritional properties, presence of dangerous substances, bacterial contamination);

(b) analyses related to the environment, in particular:

- determination of traces of dangerous compounds (in various matrices),
- determination of air pollutants at the workplace,
- mutagenicity of chemical substances;

(c) biomedical analyses, with priority for:

- the determination of enzymes and hormones (in human serum),
- haematological tests (e.g. blood coagulation),
- analyses related to cardiovascular diseases,
- analysis of tumour markers and drugs in the human body;

(d) analyses of (essentially non-ferrous) metals and surface analysis of materials;

(e) applied metrology. The emphasis will be placed on the measurement and calibration of the most important parameters for test laboratories and industrial laboratories, in particular for quality control. The subjects covered will include in particular:

- dimensional and mechanical metrology (in particular, measurements that are becoming increasingly necessary for the verification of automatic machines) and the charaterization of surface states,
- mechanical parameters, such as force and pressure,
- study of the performance and accuracy of new temperature measuring devices,
- improvement of optical metrology in the visible, ultraviolet and infra-red ranges and in the field of fibre optics and lasers,
- measurements of electrical magnitudes, in particular at high frequency,
- acoustic measurements, in particular as regards sound-proofing,
- measurements relating to ultrasonics,
- liquid and gas flow measurements,
- methods of measurement of physical and material properties, such as thermal conductivity, viscosity, etc.,
- methods of determination of the mechanical properties of metals (the work will cover only the methods required for the accurate determination of these properties and not the characterization of the materials),
- improvement of technological measurements in industry.

The activities include in particular:

- execution of measurement programmes involving the cooperation of laboratories in several Member States (inter-comparisons),
- improvement of methods of analysis and measurement,

— improvement of instruments necessary for high precision measurements,

— development of transfer standards,

— preparation and certification of reference materials,

— storage and distribution of reference materials,

— support for the setting-up at Community level of inter-laboratory circuits for quality assurance,

— research grants in subjects covered by the programme,

— exchange and training of scientists in subjects covered by the programme, taking into account the needs of the Member States that wish to improve their capabilities in these fields,

— dissemination of the results of the projects,

— well-targeted advertising of the reference materials and promotion of their sale.

ANNEX II

Evaluation criteria

The programme will be evaluated in relation to the following criteria:

1. the extent to which the programme contributes to the development of the internal market, especially by providing support for:
   - — the setting up of directives or standards,
   - — the application of directives or standards,
   - — removing difficulties in relation to the application of commercial specifications;
2. the extent to which the participants benefit from their collaboration on projects (the acquisition of know-how, the diffusion of information and improvement of methods, etc.). Any additional benefits, apart from the results obtained, will also be assessed;
3. the extent to which the programme contributes to the development of collaboration between Member States, especially in the areas of metrology and standardization (harmonization, coordination, collaboration in the development of new methods, etc.);
4. the extent to which the programme contributes effectively to the improvement of concordance in the results of clinical chemistry and leads to closer interlaboratory cooperation.