



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

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**RECH 428
COMPET 719
ATO 159**

PROGRESS REPORT

from: Presidency

to: COREPER

No. Cion prop.: 17936/11 RECH 413 COMPET 581 ATO 152 – COM(2011) 812 final

Subject: Proposal for a Council Regulation on the Research and Training Programme of the European Atomic Energy Community (2014-2018) complementing the Horizon 2020 - The Framework programme for Research and Innovation
- *Progress Report*

I. INTRODUCTION

1. On 2 December 2011 the Commission submitted to the Council the 'Horizon 2020 package' which included the following proposals:
 - (a) Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and the Council establishing 'Horizon 2020 - The **Framework Programme** for Research and Innovation (2014-2020)'¹
 - (b) Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council laying down the **rules for the participation and dissemination** in 'Horizon 2020 - the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (2014-2020)'²;
 - (c) Proposal for a Council Decision establishing the **Specific Programme** implementing 'Horizon 2020 - The Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (2014-2020)'³;
 - (d) Proposal for a Council Regulation on the **Research and Training Programme of the European Atomic Energy Community** (2014-2018) complementing the Horizon 2020 - The Framework programme for Research and Innovation⁴.
2. The Proposal for the Euratom Research and Training Programme relates to research activities in the fields of nuclear energy (fusion and fission) and radiation protection. It specifies the budget for direct and indirect actions, sets the objectives for R&D activities and determines the instruments for supporting them.
3. The Proposal for the Euratom Research and Training Programme aims at ensuring that Union-funded research and training activities in the nuclear field are continued over the period 2014-2018, maintaining the effective and coordinated activities in Member States, in order to maximise Union added value.

¹ 17933/11.

² 17934/11.

³ 17935/11.

⁴ 17936/11.

II. STATE OF PLAY

The Cyprus Presidency prepared a Presidency proposal of the text⁵ aligning it with the partial general approach reached at the Competitiveness Council of 31 May 2012 on the Framework Regulation. The Council Research and Joint Research/Atomic Questions Working Party (RECH/ATO WP) has examined the Presidency text. In general, most delegations have welcomed the above-mentioned text. However, several Member States reserved their positions pending the ongoing discussions on ITER.

The issues raised during the discussions included the following:

- the governance of the programme, as in the Commission Proposal the two consultative committees which should assist the Commission shall be chaired by the Commission, instead of a Member State;
- finding the appropriate balance between a focus on safety aspects and the various other priorities of the programme;
- improvement of nuclear safety being the general objective of the fission part of the programme;
- placing stronger focus on the activities in support of ITER and the development of the demonstration power plant;
- the budget share for the Commission's administrative expenditure for the implementation of indirect actions appears to be high;
- seeming imbalance as to the proposed budget distribution between indirect and direct actions;
- the need for a clarification of the current wording concerning the JRC direct actions, notably policy support for relevant Union legislation.
- the future of the Contracts of Association model under Horizon 2020, as these Associations play an important role in sharing intellectual property and related results throughout Europe;

⁵ Doc. 15420/12

Other issues pointed out by the delegations included, *inter alia*, the need to ensure the adequate participation of small and medium-sized enterprises in the Euratom programme, and also mentioning the medical application of radioisotopes in the programme specific objectives as well as the inertial fusion energy research in the activities necessary to achieve the programme objectives.

III. CONCLUSIONS

1. Under the Cyprus Presidency, the RECH/ATO WP has examined the above-mentioned Presidency text. On the basis of the discussions and Member States' comments, the Presidency has prepared the present progress report in order to inform the COMPET Council about the progress made to date.
2. Coreper is invited to take note of the progress report presented by the Cyprus Presidency in view of the COMPET Council on 11 December 2012.