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European Union

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USA 50  
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AUS 13  
CDN 25  
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### DECLASSIFICATION<sup>1</sup>

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Subject: Recommendation from the Commission to the Council to authorise the Commission to open negotiations on behalf of the European Community on the renewal of the agreement for scientific and technical cooperation in the domain of Intelligent Manufacturing Systems (IMS) between the European Community and the United States of America, Japan, Australia, Canada, Korea and the EFTA States of Norway and Switzerland

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Delegations will find attached the declassified version of the above document.

The text of this document is identical to the previous version.

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<sup>1</sup> Document declassified by the European Commission on 23 November 2016.

# RESTREINT UE



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THE EUROPEAN UNION**

**Brussels, 1 September 2005**

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## **COVER NOTE**

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from: Secretary-General of the European Commission,  
signed by Ms Patricia BUGNOT, Director

date of receipt: 11 August 2005

to: Mr Javier SOLANA, Secretary-General/High Representative

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Subject: Recommendation from the Commission to the Council to authorise the Commission to open negotiations on behalf of the European Community on the renewal of the agreement for scientific and technical cooperation in the domain of Intelligent Manufacturing Systems (IMS) between the European Community and the United States of America, Japan, Australia, Canada, Korea and the EFTA States of Norway and Switzerland

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Delegations will find attached Commission document SEC(2005) 1046 final.

Encl.: SEC(2005) 1046 final



COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

Brussels, 10.8.2005  
SEC(2005) 1046 final

RESTREINT UE

**RECOMMENDATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE COUNCIL**

**to authorise the Commission to open negotiations on behalf of the European Community on the renewal of the agreement for scientific and technical cooperation in the domain of Intelligent Manufacturing Systems (IMS) between the European Community and the United States of America, Japan, Australia, Canada, Korea and the EFTA States of Norway and Switzerland**

DECLASSIFIED

## 1. EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

- (1) By its Decision 1997/378/CE of 27.01.1997 the Council concluded the Agreement for scientific and technical cooperation in the domain of intelligent manufacturing systems (IMS) between the European Community and the United States of America, Japan, Australia, Canada, and the EFTA States of Norway and Switzerland. The agreement took the form of an exchange of letters that recorded the common understanding on the principles of the cooperation; details were attached as Terms of Reference (ToR) for IMS. By Decision 2001/421/CE of 28 May 2001, the Republic of Korea joined the IMS agreement. It expires at the end of April 2005 and a mandate must be requested from the Council to negotiate the renewal and improvements of the IMS governance and operations.
- (2) IMS is a unique multilateral research scheme that allows collaboration to boost industrial competitiveness, to solve problems facing manufacturing world wide and to develop advanced manufacturing technology and systems to the benefits of all participants. It provides a structure for foresight, analysis and forward thinking synthesis, fosters the development of international consortia to undertake collaborative research and provides a proven intellectual property rights management framework. IMS grew out of an initiative from Japan proposing a global system of industrial cooperation in cooperative projects for the benefit of mankind and of all partners involved. Cooperation under the IMS umbrella has generally proved satisfactory for all participants with new networks created and high quality process and systems research involving joint efforts of industry, academia, and government agencies or public authorities. Leverage has been particularly evident in the realm of small and medium sized enterprises. They have benefited from multinational collaborative research and the connected development of potential new markets abroad. All signatories to the IMS agreement are in favour of continuing this cooperation under the IMS initiative on the same terms and conditions as agreed almost 10 years ago.
- (3) Due to its experience with trans-national collaborative research and implementation of IMS within its industrially relevant specific programmes of the Framework Programmes 4, 5 and 6, the Community's contribution to IMS has been very proactive. In recognition of this leading role, all signatories to the IMS agreement seem to be prepared to agree to a few improvements of the IMS governance and operations suggested by the Commission's services on an exploratory basis. In particular, the signatories to the agreement will be free in the choice of their representatives in the IMS governance; industry lead is no longer obligatory. This is important as industry alone could not mobilize critical mass for funding collaborative research. The introduction of the principle of public-private partnership will improve the governing of IMS; the current IMS ToR must be changed accordingly. In addition, budgetary principles aligned to the requirements of the Financial Regulation applicable to the general budget of the European Communities must be introduced into the ToR. Otherwise the Commission

would not be able to contribute to the IMS Interregional Secretariat which is funded by contributions of all signatories to the IMS agreement.

- (4) The IMS ToR stipulate that the chair of the IMS governance rotates among the signatories to the agreement. However, the Community, due to the lack of a legal base in the Council decision of 1997/378/CE of 27.01.1997, could not fulfil this obligation in the past 10 years. It was not able to set up the Interregional Secretariat that is linked to the chairmanship. Based on the Agreement the Commission should be authorised to set up such an interregional secretariat for 2,5 to 5 years whenever it assumes chairmanship and needs to provide the interregional Secretariat for IMS.

## 2. RECOMMENDATION

In the light of the above, the Commission recommends:

- that the Council authorises the Commission to negotiate with the United States of America, Japan, Australia, Canada, Korea and the EFTA States of Norway and Switzerland the renewal of the agreement for scientific and technical cooperation between the European Community and United States of America, Japan, Australia, Canada, Korea and the EFTA States of Norway and Switzerland as it is decided by Council decisions 1997/378/EC and 2001/421/CE with changes as to the IMS governance, its budgetary principles, the set up of an interregional secretariat and with the duration of 10 years and with a provisional application before entry into force,
- that, the Commission will conduct these negotiations on behalf of the Community, in consultation with a special committee appointed by the Council to assist it in this task and within the framework of these directives

## ANNEX

### NEGOTIATING DIRECTIVES

The objective of the negotiations is to renew the present Agreement for the duration of 10 years. It would be appropriate to foresee the provisional application of the renewed agreement as to allow the Community's uninterrupted participation in the IMS initiative.

The principle of public-private partnership will be introduced to improve the governing of IMS; the current IMS ToR must be changed accordingly.

In addition, budgetary principles aligned to the requirements of the Financial Regulation applicable to the general budget of the European Communities must be introduced into the ToR.

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