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(Acts whose publication is not obligatory)

COUNCIL

COUNCIL DECISION

of 22 October 1979

adopting a European Economic Community concerted research project on the effects of thermal processing and distribution on the quality and nutritive value of food

(79/878/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, by virtue of Article 2 of the Treaty, the Community has as its task the promotion throughout the Community of 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 an initial outline programme of the European Communities in the field of science and technology⁽³⁾, the Council stressed that appropriate use should be made of the whole range of available ways and means, including concerted projects, in an effort to ensure maximum effectiveness, and that, whenever it proved necessary or desirable, non-member States, particularly European ones, should be associated in these projects;

Whereas, in its resolution of 14 January 1974 on the coordination of national policies and the definition of

projects of interest to the Community in the field of science and technology⁽⁴⁾, the Council entrusted the Community institutions with the task of gradually ensuring such coordination, aided by the Scientific and Technical Research Committee (CREST);

Whereas a programme of research into food technology was proposed by the Swedish delegation to European Cooperation in the Field of Scientific and Technical Research (COST); whereas in its Decision of 16 June 1975 the Council recognized the interest to the Community of such a programme;

Whereas, by Decision 78/177/EEC⁽⁵⁾, the Council adopted a concerted action project of the European Economic Community on the effect of processing on the physical properties of foodstuffs;

Whereas a concerted action project for Community research into food technology is likely to contribute effectively to the achievement of the abovementioned objectives, and in particular to a more economic use of national resources;

Whereas, as part of the rules and procedures applicable to their national programmes, the Member States intend to carry out the research indicated in Annex I and are prepared to integrate it into a process of coordination at Community level over a period of three years;

⁽¹⁾ OJ No C 140, 5. 6. 1979, p. 179.

⁽²⁾ OJ No C 247, 1. 10. 1979, p. 55.

⁽³⁾ OJ No C 7, 29. 1. 1974, p. 6.

⁽⁴⁾ OJ No C 7, 29. 1. 1974, p. 2.

⁽⁵⁾ OJ No L 54, 25. 2. 1978, p. 25.

Whereas the execution of the research work indicated in Annex I calls for a financial outlay of some eight million European units of account by the participating Member States;

Whereas on 18 July 1978 the Council agreed on certain rules for cooperation within the COST framework;

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

Considering the opinion given by CREST on the Commission proposal,

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1

The Community shall implement for a period of three years a concerted project on the effects of thermal processing and distribution on the quality and nutritive value of food (hereinafter referred to as 'the project').

The project shall consist in the coordination at Community level of the research work indicated in Annex I, which shall form part of the national research programmes of the Member States.

Article 2

The Commission shall be responsible for such coordination.

Article 3

The appropriations necessary to cover the financial contribution of the Community to the coordination, the amount of which is set at 287 000 European units of account, including the expenditure on a staff of one, shall be entered in the budget of the European Communities.

The European unit of account is defined in Article 10 of the Financial Regulation of 21 December 1977 applicable to the general budget of the European Communities⁽¹⁾.

Article 4

In order to facilitate the execution of the project a concerted action committee on the effects of thermal processing and distribution on the quality and nutritive value of food (hereinafter called 'the Committee') shall be established.

A project leader shall be appointed by the Commission by agreement with the Committee. He shall in

particular assist the Commission in its task of coordination.

The terms of reference and composition of the Committee are laid down in Annex II. The Committee shall draw up its own rules of procedure. Its secretariat shall be provided by the Commission.

Article 5

1. In accordance with a procedure to be laid down by the Commission in agreement with the Committee, the Member States participating shall regularly exchange all useful information concerning the execution of the research covered by the project. They shall provide the Commission with all information useful for coordination purposes. They shall also endeavour to provide the Commission with information on research planned or carried out in this field by bodies which are not under their authority. The information shall be treated as confidential if the Member State which provides it so requests.

2. The Commission shall draw up annual progress reports on the basis of the information provided and shall forward them to the Member States and the European Parliament.

3. At the end of the coordination period, the Commission shall, in agreement with the Committee, send to the Member States and to the European Parliament a succinct report on the performance and result of the project. The Commission shall publish this report six months after it has been sent to the Member States, except where a Member State objects. In this event, the report shall be distributed upon request only to the institutions and undertakings whose research activities justify access to the results of the research covered by the project. The Commission may make arrangements to ensure that this report remains confidential and is not disclosed to third parties.

Article 6

1. Pursuant to Article 228 of the Treaty, the Community may conclude an agreement with non-member States involved in European Cooperation in the Field of Scientific and Technical Research (COST) with a view to ensuring that the Community project and the corresponding programmes of such States are harmonized.

2. The Commission is hereby authorized to negotiate the agreement referred to in paragraph 1 in accordance with the conclusions adopted by the Council on 18 July 1978 on European Cooperation in the Field of Scientific and Technical Research (COST).

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 356, 31. 12. 1977, p. 1.

Article 7

Done at Luxembourg, 22 October 1979.

For the Council

The President

M. O'DONOGHUE

This Decision shall take effect on the day of its publication in the *Official Journal of the European Communities*.

*ANNEX II***Terms of reference and composition of the Committee**

1. The Committee shall :
 - 1.1. contribute to the optimum implementation of the project by giving its opinion on all aspects of its progress ;
 - 1.2. evaluate the results and draw conclusions regarding their application ;
 - 1.3. be responsible for the exchange of information provided for in Article 5 (1) ;
 - 1.4. keep abreast of national research being carried out in the fields covered by the project, and more especially of scientific and technical developments likely to affect the execution of the project ;
 - 1.5. suggest guidelines to the project leader ;
 - 1.6. have the right to set up a subcommittee in respect of each of the topics covered, as given in Annex I, to ensure that the project is properly implemented.
2. The reports and the opinions of the Committee shall be communicated to the Commission and the participating Member States. The Commission shall forward these opinions to CREST and to the Standing Committee on Agricultural Research.
3. The Committee shall consist of the project leader and the persons responsible for coordinating the national programmes appointed by the participating Member States.

Members of the Committee may, for the duration of the project, be accompanied by experts, subject to a maximum of two experts per participating Member State. A member's term of office shall end before its expiry if that member dies or resigns or if the State which appointed him requests his replacement. His successor shall be appointed for the remainder of the original term of office.
