

COUNCIL DECISION

of 15 March 1976

adopting a research programme (1976 to 1980) for the European Economic Community in the environmental field (indirect action)

(76/311/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 Article 2 of the Treaty assigns to the Community the task *inter alia* 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, the objectives of the action performed to this end by the Community are set out in Article 3 of the Treaty;

Whereas environmental research can contribute to the implementation of these objectives;

Whereas, therefore, the research projects dealt with by this Decision seem necessary in order to attain certain objectives of the Community, within the framework of the common market;

Whereas the Treaty does not provide the necessary powers for these purposes;

Whereas in its declaration of 22 November 1973 ⁽³⁾, the Council approved the objectives and principles of an environmental policy within the Community and a general description of the projects to be undertaken at Community level;

Whereas by its resolution of 14 January 1974 ⁽⁴⁾, the Council adopted an initial outline programme of the European Communities in the field of science and technology;

Whereas the Scientific and Technical Research Committee (CREST) has delivered an opinion on the proposal from the Commission,

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1

A research programme for the European Economic Community in the environmental field as defined in the Annex is hereby adopted for a five-year period beginning 1 January 1976.

Article 2

The upper limit for expenditure commitments and the maximum number of staff necessary for the execution of the programme shall be 16 million units of account and 10 staff respectively, the unit of account being defined in Article 10 of the Financial Regulation of 25 April 1973 applicable to the general budget of the European Communities ⁽⁵⁾.

Article 3

On a proposal from the Commission the programme shall be reviewed during the first year to ensure, if necessary, its harmonization with the new direct action programme. Any amendments which result from this review will take effect from the beginning of 1977 at the latest.

As long as no decision to revise is taken, any projects which have been started will be continued within the limits of the funds granted.

Article 4

The programme shall be subject to review, on a proposal from the Commission, to adapt it to developments in research requirements and to the needs of the new environmental programme. This review will be prepared in 1977 and will take effect at the beginning of 1978.

Article 5

The Commission shall be responsible for the implementation of the programme. It shall be assisted in this task by the Advisory Committee on Environmental Research Programme Management, set up by the Council resolution of 10 December 1973. It shall submit a report to the Council and to the European

⁽¹⁾ OJ No C 280, 8. 12. 1975, p. 59.

⁽²⁾ OJ No C 35, 16. 2. 1976, p. 29.

⁽³⁾ OJ No C 112, 20. 12. 1973, p. 1.

⁽⁴⁾ OJ No C 7, 29. 1. 1974, p. 6.

⁽⁵⁾ OJ No L 116, 1. 5. 1973, p. 1.

Parliament on the implementation of the programme annually.

Done at Brussels, 15 March 1976.

Article 6

The information resulting from the implementation of the programme shall be disseminated in accordance with Regulation (EEC) No 2380/74⁽¹⁾.

For the Council

The President

R. VOUEL

ANNEX

ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH PROGRAMME (1976 to 1980)

(indirect action — non-nuclear projects)

A maximum amount of 16 million units of account and a maximum staff of 10 Community servants will be allocated to this objective.

The main aim of the research will be to acquire the scientific and technical know-how necessary for implementation of the environmental programme of the Community. It will cover the following four areas :

1. research designed to establish criteria (exposure/effect ratios) for pollutants and potentially toxic chemicals ;
2. research and development on environmental information management, with particular reference to chemicals likely to contaminate the environment (ECDIN project) ;
3. research and development on the reduction and prevention of pollution and nuisances, including the application of 'clean' technologies ;
4. research and development related to the protection and improvement of the natural environment.

Certain studies of a general nature may also be undertaken. Research will be carried out by way of contracts.

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 255, 20. 9. 1974, p. 1.