II

(Preparatory Acts)

COMMISSION

Proposal for a Council Decision adopting an action programme of the Community in education and training for technology — Comett (1986-1992)

COM(85) 431 final

(Submitted by the Commission to the Council on 6 August 1985)

(85/C 234/03)

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES:

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community, and in particular Article 128 thereof,

Having regard to Council Decision 63/266/EEC of 2 April 1963 laying down general principles for implementing a common vocational training policy (1) and in particular the second, sixth, seventh, ninth and tenth principles thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the Commission,

Having regard to the opinion of the European Parliament,

Having regard to the opinion of the Economic and Social Committee,

Whereas the fundamental objectives of the common vocational training policy set down in the second principle of Decision 63/266/EEC refer in particular to broadening vocational training on the basis of a general education to meet requirements arising from technical progress and relating closely the different forms of vocational training to the various sectors of the economy;

Whereas the Council has already agreed to Community action in this direction through its resolution on vocational training and new information technologies of 2 June 1983 (2) as well as through the Council resolution and Ministers of Education meeting within the Council on the introduction of new information technologies in education of 19 September 1983 (3);

Whereas the Council in its conclusions on technological change and social adjustment of 7 June 1984 (4) has requested the Commission to develop, and where necessary to initiate, work with the purpose of strengthening cooperation between industry and training institutions, in particular in advanced training institutions so as to improve the provision of initial training and the transmission of new skills to those whose employment is affected by technological innovations;

Whereas the Council has adopted measures with a view to strengthening technological cooperation at Community level, notably with its Decisions 85/141/EEC (5), 85/195/EEC (6), 85/196/EEC (7) and 85/197/EEC (8) concerning ESPRIT, Biotechnology, Brite and the plan to stimulate European scientific and technical cooperation and interchange;

Whereas the European Council, at its meeting in March 1985, reiterated the importance of strengthening the technological base and competitiveness of industry and, in that context, emphasized the necessity to make better use of human resources, in particular by means of increased cooperation between higher education and industry (9);

Whereas the Council (Education) at its meeting on 3 June 1985 indicated guidelines on the principal objectives for joint action in this field;

Whereas the European Parliament on 24 May 1983 adopted a resolution on the competitiveness of Community Industry (10) in which it called for greater

(1) OJ No 63, 20. 4. 1963, p. 1338.
(2) OJ No C 166, 25. 6. 1983, p. 1.
(3) OJ No C 256, 24. 9. 1984, p. 1.
(4) OJ No C 184, 11. 7. 1984, p. 1.
(5) OJ No L 55, 23. 2. 1985, p. 1.
(6) OJ No L 83, 25. 3. 1985, p. 1.
(7) OJ No L 83, 25. 3. 1985, p. 9.
(8) OJ No L 83, 25. 3. 1985, p. 13.
(9) Bull. EC 3-1985.
(10) OJ No C 135, 24. 5. 1983.

efforts to be made in vocational training and training for managers of undertakings; whereas that resolution complements the resolution on vocational training and new information technologies (1) and other resolutions, notably those relating to higher education and the development of cooperation between higher education institutions (2) and on the Community research and development programme in the field of information technologies (3) and on a plan to stimulate European cooperation and scientific and technical interchange (4);

Whereas the exploitation of technological developments throughout industry will depend on the versatility, skills and enterprise of the workforce; whereas, in this context, there is an urgent need to develop, at Community level, a human resources strategy as a vital complement to the overall Community strategy for industrial, R & D and innovation policies;

Whereas cooperation between university and industry to improve training policies should be developed both within Member States, particularly at local and regional level and across the Community;

Whereas the Advisory Committee for Vocational Training has given an opinion on this matter,

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1

A programme to stimulate, within the European Community, cooperation between universities and industry in advanced training, known hereafter as Comett (Community Programme in Education and Training for Technology), and as set out in the Annex, is hereby adopted for a seven-year period commencing on 1 January 1986. The programme shall consist of two phases. The first phase will last until 31 December 1989, and include a mid-term review as provided for in Article 6. The second phase will start from 1 January 1990 and end on 31 December 1992.

Article 2

In the context of this programme, 'university' is used as the general term covering all types of post-secondary education and training institutions which offer degree-level qualifications of diplomas. 'Industry' is used to embrace all types of economic activity in the private or public sector, particularly those which involve the use of new equipment and/or new production processes, whether in industry, agriculture or the services sector. It covers small and medium-sized firms and agencies, as well as large companies.

Article 3

The objectives of the Comett programme shall be as follows:

(i) to promote a European dimension in cooperation between universities and industry in advanced level training relating to innovation and the development and application of new technologies;

ii) to promote the exchange of experience, the pooling of resources and the realization of economies of scale through the joint development of advanced training programmes;

(iii) to strengthen and diversify provision for advanced training at local and regional level and contribute to the balanced economic development of the Community;

(iv) to identify progressively gaps and new priorities in existing training provision which could be filled by supplementary action both within Member States and at Community level.

Article 4

The estimate of the amounts needed to implement the first phase of Comett in the period 1986-1989 inclusive is 80 million ECU. This estimated funding will include finance for the different incentive and complementary measures set out in the Annex. The financial estimates for the period 1990-1992 shall be assessed in the mid-term review provided for in Article 6.

Article 5

The Commission shall implement Comett on the basis of the measures set out in the Annex to this Decision. The Commission shall be assisted by a high-level panel of experts — drawn from universities and from industry — as well as by consultants. The panel shall be established in 1986 with the task of advising the Commission on the implementation of the measures set out in the Annex. An annual report regarding the implementation of Comett shall be presented by the Commission to the Advisory

(1) OJ No C 161, 20. 6. 1983.
(2) OJ No C 104, 16. 4. 1984.
(3) OJ No C 13, 17. 1. 1983.
(4) OJ No C 315, 26. 11. 1984.

Committee for Vocational Training set up under Decision No 63/266/EEC [1] and also made widely available to other Community groups or committees active in the field of industrial, innovation and research policies. The Commission shall see to it that there is consistency and complementarity between this action programme and programmed Community Research and Development activities.

[1] OJ No 63, 20. 4. 1963, p. 1338/63.

Article 6

An interim report reviewing the progress achieved during the first phase (1986-1989), together with guidelines for the implementation of the second phase of the programme (1990-1992), shall be submitted by the Commission to the Council and Parliament by 31 December 1988.

ANNEX

to the draft Decision on the Community Programme in Education and Training for Technology (Comett)

1. Comett is designed as a range of incentive and complementary measures to stimulate cooperation in the advanced training field between universities and industry. These measures are directed at students and staff in universities; managers and engineers; scientific, technical and commercial staff in industry, high-level technicians, the social partners and trainers.

2. In the areas in which Community support will be granted, projects to receive Community assistance shall be chosen on the basis of their quality, the extent to which they contribute to building up a strong sense of European identity, their innovative aspects, and their value in terms of breaking down barriers between higher education and industry in relation to advanced training, and their potential scale of impact.

3. During the first phase of Comett (1986-1989), the following measures shall be implemented:

   A. Support for the creation and running of a European network of University—Industry Training Partnerships (UITPs) which:
      (i) involve an agreement designed to meet specific needs for highly qualified human resources, drawing university and industry together, on a structured and coordinated basis, together with relevant public bodies and agencies;
      (ii) provide some or all of the cooperative measures to be carried out: work placements for students and academic staff in industry; secondment of industrial staff to universities; joint development and production of teaching materials; collaboration on the delivery of specially designed retraining and updating programmes for training instructors, managers and industrial staff, especially mid-career staff, and those in small and medium-sized firms;
      (iii) include a commitment to liaise with counterpart initiatives in other Member States, to receive students, academic and industrial personnel from elsewhere within the Community, to develop cross-national cooperative projects, and to take an active role in a Community-wide network providing technical assistance, monitoring and evaluation.

   B. Specific incentives to encourage the transnational exchange of students and industrial and academic personnel through:
      (i) a grant scheme for student placement in firms in another Member State;
      (ii) fellowships for academic staff on detachment to specialized areas of industry;
      (iii) fellowships for industrial staff on detachment to universities.

   C. Support for the design, development and testing at European level of joint training projects by high technology firms in liaison with relevant university departments in those areas where key skill shortages are identified.

      Support for advanced training courses for the rapid dissemination of results of research and development in high technology among university staff and students and industry.

   D. Support for multilateral initiatives on distance learning systems using new technologies with particular emphasis on the training of trainers and managers.

E. Complementary measures carried out by the Commission to encourage university—industry cooperation including:

(i) setting up of a data base; dissemination of information and exchange of experience;

(ii) networking arrangements for University—Industry Training Partnerships;

(iii) monitoring and analysis at Community level of the supply and demand of skilled manpower, and the comparative analysis of trends and issues such as the fiscal environment, obstacles to cooperation, the development of credit transfers;

(iv) sponsorship of Round Tables for university and industry managers to examine ways of strengthening cooperation and eliminating obstacles to it.

4. The second phase of Comett (1990-1992) shall serve to consolidate and develop measures launched during the first phase. It will in particular:

A. Strengthen the European dimension of the UITPs by increasing substantially the number of cooperative projects carried out between UITPs in different Member States; include in the network new initiatives in other parts of the Community; encourage the transfer of experience gained into the mainstream of the different systems in each Member State.

B. Provide for the adaptation and expansion of Comett Community exchange schemes in the light of experience during the first phase and the links developed with research activities at Community level, broadening out as appropriate to encourage the mobility of other categories of students, trainers academic or industrial staff within the framework of university — industry cooperation.

C. Promote further joint training projects between European industry using prototypes and incentives modified, as appropriate, in the light of experience during the first phase.

D. Extend the use of open learning systems to improve the quality and delivery of training programmes, and strengthen cooperation involving the training of trainers and managers.

E. Extend arrangements for the extensive exchange of experience in this field.

Amended proposal for a Council Regulation amending Regulation (EEC) No 1418/76 on the common organization of the market in rice

COM(85) 344 final

(Submitted by the Commission to the Council on 13 August 1985)

(85/C 234/04)

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community, and in particular Article 43 (2) thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the Commission,

Having regard to the opinion of the European Parliament,

Whereas Article 9 of Council Regulation (EEC) No 1418/76 (1), as last amended by Regulation (EEC) No 1025/84 (2), makes provision for the granting of production refunds for broken rice used for the manufacture of starch and for brewing, with the aim of ensuring that industry has access to such basic products at lower prices than would result from applying Community levies and common prices;

Whereas the present arrangements regarding production refunds have proved inappropriate to developments in the starch sector; whereas it appears advisable to restrict production refunds for rice starch to starch intended for the manufacture of products covered by import arrangements which do not involve agricultural products subject to a common organization of the market; whereas Article 9 of Regulation (EEC) No 1418/76 should be amended accordingly;

Whereas, to minimize the problems created for those sectors of starch production which will not be eligible for

(1) OJ No L 166, 25. 6. 1976, p. 1.
(2) OJ No L 107, 19. 4. 1984, p. 13.