

6) Nuova Membership della Romania

La posizione unanime espressa dal Gruppo degli Alti Rappresentanti circa l'applicazione di membership della Romania è stata ampiamente favorevole. Positive sono state le valutazioni riportate dalla delegazione EUREKA in visita in Romania e dei contatti con il Ministro della ricerca rumeno ed altre rappresentanze istituzionali ed industriali locali.

La Romania è di fatto già membro EUREKA e parteciperà alla Conferenza Ministeriale di Londra.

PAGINA BIANCA

**RISOLUZIONE DELLA VIII CONFERENZA INTERPARLAMENTARE
EUREKA DEL 12-13 MAGGIO A LONDRA**

Nei giorni 12 e 13 maggio si è tenuta a Londra la VIII Conferenza Interparlamentare EUREKA rivolta alla partecipazione di rappresentanze parlamentari dei paesi membri. La prima edizione della Conferenza Interparlamentare si è tenuta a Roma nel 1990 su impulso dell'Italia che in quell'anno deteneva la Presidenza EUREKA.

La Conferenza Interparlamentare ha un ruolo di natura consultiva formulando indirizzi e raccomandazioni confronti della Conferenza Ministeriale EUREKA.

La VIII Conferenza Interparlamentare di Londra che è stata aperta dallo speaker della Camera dei Comuni del Regno Unito, ha affrontato gli stessi temi che sono previsti nell'agenda della Conferenza Ministeriale del 19 giugno.

Si allega la risoluzione approvata all'unanimità dai partecipanti.

In rappresentanza del Parlamento italiano hanno partecipato:

on. Giovanni Castellani- Presidente della Commissione Cultura della Camera dei Deputati;

on. Francesco Aloisio;

sen. Mario D'Urso.

RESOLUTION OF THE VIIITH INTER- PARLIAMENTARY EUREKA CONFERENCE LONDON 12/13 MAY 1997

Introduction

1. At the invitation of the United Kingdom, representatives of the Parliaments of the 24 Members States and the European Parliament met in the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre, Westminster to exchange views on EUREKA and to debate key issues relevant to its future direction.

Portfolio of EUREKA Projects

2. The Conference noted with satisfaction that EUREKA had continued to generate good quality projects under the United Kingdom's Chairmanship. Since the start of the Chair Year a total of 111 new projects had been endorsed with an estimated total value of 440MECU.

3. The Conference was informed that the total number of ongoing EUREKA projects now stood at 645, with an estimated total value of 9962MECU. 3054 companies, research organisations and universities were involved in these projects.

4. There was particular satisfaction that the number of finished EUREKA projects had increased significantly over the previous year, rising from 323 at the time of the VIIth Inter-Parliamentary Conference, in Brussels, in March 1996 to 490. This indicates that EUREKA is succeeding in its aim of delivering advanced technology products, processes and services to the market place.

5. The Conference welcomed presentations on two of EUREKA's successful projects - CIMsteel and Eurosprings. Both are concrete examples that EUREKA works.

6. Employment is one of the central social and economic issues, and EUREKA is an important initiative for securing European competitiveness, and thus improving the employment situation in Europe.

7. To ensure a healthy project portfolio in future years, the Conference emphasised the need for EUREKA members to increase the dialogue with industry about promising fields of action, to explore the possibilities for EUREKA in aiding new technology based firms, and to allocate adequate resources to support that portfolio.

8. The Conference recommends that EUREKA should consider promoting co-operation between SMEs and enterprises engaged in global scientific & technological research such as space exploration.

9. The Conference requested that a report be made by the Portuguese Chairmanship to the next Conference on the method and amount of public financing of EUREKA projects by each Member State and the European Commission.

Globalisation

10. EUREKA's 3rd Medium Term Plan highlighted the need for the initiative to adapt to take account of the opportunities and challenges facing European companies in an increasingly global environment. The Conference took this issue forward with a debate on collaborative research and development in the context of globalisation in order to improve competitiveness and employment in Europe, and more specifically considered what EUREKA's response should be.

11. The Conference noted with satisfaction that the relevant modifications to the "Madrid Rules", which govern the relation of EUREKA with non-member countries, to allow for the easier participation of industry from these countries, have been proposed by the High Level Group to the next Ministerial Conference for discussion.

12. EUREKA must adjust to the new reality of globalisation. This accords with the "bottom up" approach, since it is what the best European enterprises demand; and it is in the interests of European enterprises to collaborate with the best, wherever it may be found. The Conference therefore called for EUREKA, in accordance with the Davignon Report, to look for ways to extend its services to cover the wider world, on the basis of technical excellence and scope for access to new markets. However, EUREKA's mission must remain focused on the industrial competitiveness of its Member States. Therefore:

- companies must be encouraged to look for research partners within Europe first, before looking outside; and
- to bear the EUREKA stamp, a project must retain a proportion of European to non-European involvement not less than 2:1.

Synergy Between EUREKA and the European Union Framework Programme

13. During the UK Chairmanship EUREKA has submitted a paper to the European Commission setting out a range of practical steps to strengthen the synergy between EUREKA and the European Union Framework Programmes, a particularly timely action in view of the development of the Fifth Framework Programme.

14. The Conference reinforced strongly the logic of greater synergy between the two programmes, including the possibility of co-financing, and expressed its desire to see the strategy laid down in the third Medium Term Plan realised in the Fifth Framework Programme. However, this process should respect the different characteristics of the two initiatives.

15. One area where synergy was recognised as being of particular importance was in the cultivation of strategic projects. The Conference welcomed the fact that EUREKA was considering ways of encouraging more projects with a strategic dimension in terms of the competitiveness of European industry as a whole. Such projects should involve SMEs and large companies.

16. The Conference asked that a report be made to its next session on the practical steps taken to implement the proposals put forward by EUREKA.

Network Review

17. The Conference was pleased to hear of the thorough review of EUREKA's structure and working practices that had taken place during the UK Chairmanship. It noted the review's conclusion that there is a need to adapt EUREKA's management and decision making processes to reflect the growth in membership and to ensure the service offered by EUREKA to companies is efficient and responsive.

18. It was broadly felt that EUREKA's ability to evolve and to demonstrate, as well as preach, innovation reflected well the vitality of the initiative.

Relationships with European Non-Member Countries

19. The UK Chairmanship, implementing an action from EUREKA's 3rd Medium Term Plan, carried out a review of the initiative's relationship with the eight National Information Point (NIP) countries of Central and Eastern Europe.

20. The Conference wholeheartedly supported the review's conclusion that, despite the difficulties involved, it was to the benefit of all that EUREKA should sustain its current efforts to establish effective links and extend co-operation with the countries of the region.

21. The Conference recommended that as the investment climate in Central and Eastern Europe improved EUREKA should adopt a proactive approach in promoting joint strategic projects.

Application from Romania

22. The Conference noted that an application for membership had been received from Romania and that this was currently being considered.

Conclusion

23. The Conference requested the Chairman of the VIIIth EUREKA Inter-Parliamentary Conference to bring this Resolution to the attention of the Chairman of the XVth EUREKA Ministerial Conference, taking place in the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre, London on 19 June 1997. The Conference further requested that emphasis be placed on (i) its approval of the EUREKA paper on synergy with the Framework Programme and, in particular, the realisation of the proposals made in the Third Medium Term Plan and its wish to be kept informed of progress on this matter; and (ii) the conclusion of this Conference that EUREKA should develop its activities to help European companies secure effective and mutually beneficial collaborations with the best partners no matter where in the world they are located.

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**BOZZA DEL COMUNICATO STAMPA DELLA XV CONFERENZA
MINISTERIALE**

XV SESSION OF THE EUREKA MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE, LONDON, 19 JUNE 1997

DRAFT COMMUNIQUÉ

This document has been drafted on the basis of several rounds of discussions and comments among the High Level Group Representatives. It will be discussed again at the High Level Group meeting on 18 June 1997, and a revised version will be distributed on the day of the Conference.

The Ministerial Conference is invited to:

- adopt the Communiqué of the XV Session of the EUREKA Ministerial Conference.

XV SESSION OF THE EUREKA MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE, LONDON, 19 JUNE 1997

DRAFT COMMUNIQUE

1 Introduction

At the invitation of the United Kingdom, Ministers from 24 European countries and a Member of the European Commission met in London on 19 June 1997 for the XVth Session of the EUREKA Ministerial Conference.

The Ministerial Conference was chaired by Mr John Battle, Minister of State for Science, Industry and Energy at the Department of Trade and Industry.

The United Kingdom held the first Chairmanship of the period covered by the Third Medium Term Plan 1996-2000, adopted by the Ministerial Conference at its XIV Session in Brussels.

2 Admission of New Member

Having previously decided in a written procedure to accept Romania as a member of EUREKA, the Ministerial Conference was delighted to welcome the Romanian Minister for Research and Technology, Mr Bujor Bogdan Teodoriu, to his first session of the Conference. The Conference expressed their satisfaction with the very high level of political commitment to EUREKA demonstrated by the Romanian government.

3 Portfolio of EUREKA Projects

The Ministerial Conference noted with satisfaction that new EUREKA project generation had continued during the term of the United Kingdom Chair, and that again a significant number of

projects had met the high quality standards of EUREKA. The Conference announced XXX new projects with an estimated total financial volume of YYY MECU. The average size of announced projects is AA MECU and their average duration is Z years.

Taking into account the new projects announced in London, the total number of on-going projects is XXX having a total financial value of YYY MECU. At the present time over XXX companies and over YYY research institutes and other organisations are participating in on-going projects. During the United Kingdom Chair, ZZZ projects came to completion, bringing the number of finished projects since the beginning of the Initiative to XXX.

The growing number of successful finished projects indicates the success of EUREKA in helping European industry to deliver advanced products and processes to the market place thus strengthening its prosperity and competitiveness. The Ministerial Conference particularly welcomed the fact that SMEs had gained commercial benefits from participation in the Initiative. Evidence of this success was shown in the report of the Evaluation Panel, presented to the XV Ministerial Conference.

The Ministerial Conference noted with satisfaction that a considerable amount of effort had been put into the identification of possible projects of strategic significance, one of the key issues of the 3rd Medium Term Plan, and that this work would continue under the incoming Portuguese Chairmanship. The Conference welcomed the fact that successive Chairmanships were co-operating closely to give this important subject the sustained attention it required.

4 EU-EUREKA Synergy

The Third Medium Term plan highlighted the need for a more co-ordinated strategic approach to European R&D and innovation, in particular the need for enhanced synergy between EUREKA and the European Union's Framework Programme. This commitment reflected a strong message from a group of industrial experts on the need for a more coherent and strategic approach in this field. The preparation of a Fifth Framework Programme represented an ideal opportunity to fine-tune the relationship between the two initiatives.

The Ministerial Conference was delighted to note that the High Level Group had made a number of concrete suggestions for the Fifth Framework Programme, which, if taken into account, would represent practical steps towards the implementation of previous policy commitments on enhanced synergy. The steps focused on four objectives:

- making it easier to set up projects involving contributions in both frameworks which are expected to have a major impact on economic competitiveness (while keeping the bottom-up approach of EUREKA);

- how to ensure that more results of Framework Programme research reach the market via EUREKA;
- expanding the participation of the Union in EUREKA projects;
- underlying the above points, the need for a structured and productive framework for dialogue between the Union and EUREKA.

The Conference affirmed its support for the steps set out in the High Level Group's paper.

Mrs Cresson provided the keynote address for a debate on the exploitation of European scientific research in the world market place. Several business leaders were present for the debate, namely Sir David Barnes, Managing Director Zeneca Plc, Dr Peter Williams, Chairman and Chief Executive Oxford Instruments Plc, Mr David Chatterton, Chairman Chelsea Instruments, Mr Torben Andersen, Vice President Odense Steel Shipyard, and Mr Philip Laven, Director, Technical Department, European Broadcasting Union. These representatives participated in the debate, putting forward their views on how schemes such as EUREKA and the Framework Programme could co-operate to help businesses compete in global markets.

5 Relationships with non-member countries

During the United Kingdom chairmanship EUREKA continued to look at ways of developing its relationships with non-member countries in Europe and the wider world. This was in accordance with the desires expressed in the Third Medium Term Plan.

a) National Information Point review and meeting

During the course of the last year the network carried out a review of EUREKA's relationship with the eight non-member National Information Point (NIP) countries in Central and Eastern Europe and had concluded that mutual benefits could be gained from continuing co-operation. A meeting between EUREKA members and representatives of NIP countries was held in Cardiff in February 1997 at which agreement was reached on ways to improve contacts.

b) Globalisation

At its meeting in Brussels in June 1996, the Ministerial Conference took note of the view of a group of industrial experts that European enterprises needed to be free to collaborate with the best in the world in order to remain competitive in a global economy. This was reflected in a commitment in the Third Medium Term Plan to examine ways in which EUREKA could help companies who wished to draw on world-wide expertise for the benefit of their projects. The High Level Group duly made a number of recommendations, which included developing interactions with initiatives similar to EUREKA, allowing participants from non-member countries to join a project from the start, exploring the establishment of informal contacts

(including brokerage events) with countries which have a strong R&D base to offer European companies and are themselves interested in co-operation; and making more use of the World Wide Web.

The Ministerial Conference endorsed the High Level Group's recommendations together with a number of consequent changes to the Madrid Rules governing EUREKA's relations with non-members. The Conference expressed the view that implementation of these changes would ensure that EUREKA continued as a dynamic and responsive instrument, attuned to the needs and circumstances of European enterprises.

6 Making EUREKA more responsive to the needs of customers

The Ministerial Conference noted with approval that the High Level Group and the National Project Co-ordinators Group had conducted a thorough overhaul of the initiative's procedures and administration to improve its manageability and reduce bureaucracy where possible. The aim was to improve the responsiveness and effectiveness of EUREKA *vis à vis* its customers in business and research. Steps taken included simplified procedures and forms, fewer formal meetings and a clearer management structure. The role and operation of the EUREKA Secretariat were examined in detail, and clarified in a number of respects.

7 VIII Interparliamentary Conference

The Ministerial Conference welcomed the active and positive interest shown by the Parliamentarians of EUREKA Members, and took note of the Resolution of the VIIIth Interparliamentary Conference hosted by the Parliament of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland on 12-13 March 1997. The Ministerial Conference particularly noted two conclusions on which the Parliamentarians' had laid particular emphasis:

- their approval of the High Level Group's paper on synergy with the Framework Programme and, in particular, the realisation of the proposals made in the Third Medium Term Plan and the wish of the Interparliamentary Conference to be kept informed of progress on this matter;
- that EUREKA should develop its activities to help European companies secure effective and mutually beneficial collaborations with the best partners no matter where in the world they are located.

8 Other Matters

a) EUREKA Lillehammer Award

[The description of the project and the final text will be completed at London]

b) Brokerage Events

The Ministerial Conference noted that industrial brokerage events had been held during the United Kingdom year with over [2000] participants involved in them. Some of the projects generated by these events have been announced today. Topics covered included: Food Technology in Reykjavik, Factory of the Future in Berlin, CARE Innovation in Frankfurt, TransEast in Warsaw, Environmental Monitoring in Manchester, Advanced Shipping Technology in Zeist, Sustainable Energy Technology in Budapest, and Agro-Biotechnology - Non Food in Tulln.

c) EUREKA Secretariat

The Ministerial Conference thanked the EUREKA Secretariat for its contribution to the work of the Initiative during the year.

9 The Programme of Work of the Portuguese Chairmanship

The Ministerial Conference welcomed the Programme of Work of the incoming Portuguese Chairmanship, the main elements of which were:

- an emphasis on the generation of high quality projects;
- implementing the changes to EUREKA's structures and procedures agreed during the UK Chairmanship;
- improving awareness of EUREKA as the preferred mechanism in Europe to carry out collaborative research close to the market;
- launching events which would support this business-like character and signal the openness of EUREKA towards world-wide co-operation.

The Conference approved the Programme of Work.

10 Next Session of the Ministerial Conference

The Ministerial Conference thanked the Government of Portugal for its readiness to take over the Chairmanship, and accepted the invitation to hold its XVIth Session in Lisbon on 30 June 1998.

The Ministerial Conference also looked forward to the subsequent Chairmanships of Turkey, Germany, Spain and Greece.

At the conclusion of the meeting the Chairman, Mr Battle , formally passed the Chairmanship to his Portuguese colleague Professor José Mariano Gago, and expressed the good wishes of all Members for a successful and productive year ahead.