

BOZZA DI COMUNICATO PER LA STAMPA ITALIANA

Il 19 giugno avrà luogo a Londra la tradizionale Conferenza Ministeriale dell'Iniziativa EUREKA giunta quest'anno alla sua XV edizione ed alla quale sono invitati i Ministri dei 24 paesi membri di EUREKA ed il Commissario Europeo per la ricerca.

Nell'occasione l'Italia sarà rappresentata dal Sottosegretario di Stato all'Università e la Ricerca Scientifica e Tecnologica, prof. Giuseppe Tognon.

La Conferenza Ministeriale EUREKA, che chiude l'anno di presidenza del Regno Unito che passerà le consegne al Portogallo, costituisce l'organo politico di questa iniziativa di collaborazione internazionale per l'innovazione tecnologica, promossa - come si ricorderà - dall'allora presidente francese Mitterrand nel 1985.

La dinamicità di EUREKA è attestata dal sempre crescente numero di progetti presentati. I progetti attualmente in corso ammontano a circa 700 con un costo stimato di circa 20 mila miliardi di lire e con un coinvolgimento di circa 3200 partecipanti europei di cui 1000 grandi imprese, circa 1200 piccole e medie imprese, più di 800 istituti di ricerca (tra cui università) e circa 150 altre organizzazioni.

L'Italia che è presente nel "club" EUREKA sin dal suo lancio, si è collocata ai primi posti tra tutti i paesi membri, per numero di progetti presentati, ma soprattutto per investimenti. Al dicembre 1996, infatti, l'Italia risultava come partecipante a 185 progetti, 101 dei quali già terminati, il cui costo complessivo, dal 1985 ad oggi, è stimabile in oltre 19 mila miliardi di lire, circa un quinto dei quali costituisce la quota fornita dall'Italia.

Nel corso della XV Conferenza Ministeriale di Londra, l'Italia annuncerà 12 nuovi progetti EUREKA tra cui, può citarsi, il progetto ADTT (Advanced Digital Television Technology) finalizzato alla ricerca e sviluppo di sistemi televisivi digitali ad alta definizione e per il quale vi è una compartecipazione alla ricerca applicata dei più importanti gruppi industriali europei del settore.

La Conferenza Ministeriale costituirà anche l'occasione per discutere del ruolo e del futuro di EUREKA e dell'intero sistema della ricerca europea esplorando e proponendo azioni concrete per creare una più efficace complementarità e sinergia tra le diverse iniziative quali in particolare EUREKA ed i programmi di ricerca dell'Unione Europea.

EUREKA

Brussels, 9 June 1997
KV/cg - CF 31 MC 97 (Press)

To: Vittorio De Crescenzo
From: Kirsten Voje
Subject: Press Trip



Dear Vittorio

Our preparations for the Press Trip to this year's Ministerial Conference activities are progressing well and we are pleased to tell you that the media below from your country have confirmed their participation in the Press Trip. We also indicate their telephone numbers in case you would like to make contact with them prior to the Press Trip.

Mr Lorenzo Bianchi

Il Resto del Carlino

Tel: +39 51 536 351

I also attach, for your information, the invitation and programme which was sent to these journalists.

If you have any questions, please call me.

Kind regards

ff Carolyn Gu
Kirsten Voje

EUREKA MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE '97 - LONDON**More than a decade of advanced European R&D****PRESS TRIP INVITATION - LONDON, 17-19 June 1997**

EUREKA has the pleasure of inviting you*, together with around 50 other science journalists from around Europe, to a two day press trip, to cover the latest developments of the EUREKA Initiative.

Apart from an in-depth introduction to EUREKA and its impact on your country, it will also give you the opportunity to meet and interview your national EUREKA Minister and High Level Representatives.

As you may know, EUREKA is the Research and Development Initiative in which 24 European Countries and the European Commission help technology-oriented companies and research bodies across Europe launch collaborative, market-oriented R&D projects.**

EUREKA works thanks to its unbureaucratic, "bottom up" approach. It is industrialists and researchers who define, launch and manage their EUREKA projects, and who stand to profit from their success. The 'EUREKA label' is a recognition of the cross-border and hi-tech nature of the research, thus helping them gain the support of their national authorities.

This 'bottom-up' approach was an experiment when EUREKA was launched in 1986, and has generated impressive results:

- Around 1200 EUREKA projects have been launched, involving more than two thousand industrial participants (of which a quarter are SMEs) and more than a thousand research organisations, representing a total R&D investment of over 13 billion ECU.**
- They cover the entire spectrum of advanced civilian technologies: from information technology to genetic engineering and advanced solar power.**
- About 500 of these projects have already finished and have, between them, introduced a wide range of hi-tech products and processes onto the market.**
- The 'EUREKA Family' has grown from 17 Western European Members to encompass many countries of Central and Eastern Europe (the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Russia, Slovenia). An additional network of offices in non-Member Countries in Central and Eastern Europe also exists to support projects involving partners from the region.**

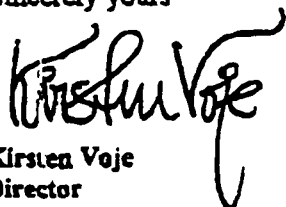
Each year, a Ministerial Conference gathers ministerial-level representatives of all the participating countries and the European Commission to assess the Initiative's progress and chart its future.

This year, the Conference will be held on 19 June in London under EUREKA's UK Presidency. The first day of the press trip will also include a visit to the EUREKA "Manufacturing of the Future exhibition" at the Science Museum.

The press trip is being organised for the EUREKA Secretariat by European Service Network, Brussels (see contact details in attached documents).

I look forward to welcoming you in London and remain

Sincerely yours



Kirsten Voje
Director
Information and Communications
EUREKA Secretariat

- * If you wish, the international EUREKA Secretariat will cover travel and accommodation expenses.
- ** The 24 Member Countries are the EU 15 plus Hungary, the Czech Republic, Iceland, Norway, Poland, Russia, Slovenia, Switzerland and Turkey.

EUREKA Ministerial Conference

London, 17-19 June 1997

PRESS PROGRAMME

Tuesday 17 June 1997

19:30 **Welcome dinner with representatives of EUREKA**

Wednesday 18 June 1997

9:00 - 11:30 **"EUREKA Manufacturing for the Future" exhibition**
Press launch of the EUREKA Manufacturing for the Future exhibition at the Science Museum. The exhibition will be opened by the UK Minister for Science and Technology. Focusing on state of the art design, manufacturing and production methods used in factories of today and tomorrow. An exciting event for adults and children alike, it will also demonstrate how virtual reality is used to test new ideas, and communicate over long distances using a fashion design game. A jigsaw game will show how many companies or manufacturing sites will contribute towards producing a single product using "Agile" production method.

The centre-piece is Lotus Elise sports car which focuses on a revolutionary lightweight chassis and the advanced Concentra computer package used in its design. Lotus were able to apply much of the knowledge gained from their participation in the EU 742 E-AUTO EUREKA project in design of the new car.

Other projects that will be featured include EU 914 EUROENVIRON ALULITE which resulted in an improved, environmentally friendly manufacturing process for aluminium cans, and EU 1290 CAP-BIKE which developed a light-weight, cost competitive mountain bike using carbon-fibre technology.

12:30 **Lunch with High Level Representatives with a chance to speak informally to them in the afternoon.**

19:30 **Dinner at the British Telecom Post Office Tower (BT are participants in the Digital Audio Broadcasting Project). David Witherow, President of World DAB will be amongst the guests.**

Want to visit to the EUREKA site? <http://eureka.be>

Thursday 19 June 1997**8:00 - 8:45 Breakfast meetings with Ministers and High Level Representatives****9:30 - 11:00 Presentation on EUREKA**

- Introduction on EUREKA
- Presentations of 5 projects by exhibitors (there will be a small exhibition of EUREKA projects) - see below

13:00**Press conference**

Press conference by Ministers and confirmation of the EUREKA Lillehammer Award Winner)

13:30**Lunch**

EXHIBITION ON EUREKA PROJECTS AND ON THE WELDING INSTITUTE

EU 130 CIMSTEEL - A large \$50 million project involving over 70 partners from 9 EUREKA member countries. Presented by Taylor Woodrow Construction Ltd the computer integrated manufacturing (CIM) systems developed under CIMSTEEL will greatly enhance the competitiveness to the European construction steelworks industry. The vision is one of turning a craft industry, made up of many small firms, into a state-of-the-art integrated manufacturing industry.

EU 730 PREMEC - Hydra Tools Plc participated in this project which set out to develop and exploit a revolutionary tunnelling method originally conceived by French project leaders, Perforex SA. The method of ground support above the tunnel prior to removal of earth provides for a safe working area at the tunnel face making it particularly effective in loose ground. Originally only viable in soft clays, the EUREKA project aimed to further develop the system for use in more difficult ground conditions. Hydra Tools were responsible for development of the cutting tool.

EU 829 DECAY CONTROL - Development of new technologies and methods to detect and eradicate timber decay in buildings, especially dry rot, is the aim of this project to be exhibited by Hutton and Rostron Environmental Investigations Ltd. Reduced environmental hazards, more cost effective and less destructive to buildings are the key features of the project. Use of fibre optic and ultrasound inspection techniques are under development but perhaps the most interesting aspect of the project is the use of specially trained search dogs to detect decay.

EU 819 CARIOCA and EU 1281 BISCUIT - Both these marine technology projects involved Chelsea Instruments, a small UK SME with over 20 years experience in design, development and manufacture of precision instrumentation. CARIOCA has developed an instrumented buoy to measure levels carbon dioxide gas in surface sea water.

This information is crucial for research into the involvement of the oceans in environmental changes, particularly global warming. BISCUIT aims to develop an in-situ sea bed/sea surface mini laboratory capable of measuring sediment stability, erosion and other data that is essential before embarking on marine or coastal engineering works or dredging activities.

The Welding Institute (TWI) is one of Europe's largest independent contract research and technology organisations. TWI expertise is in welding and joining technologies and materials engineering. Over the years they have collaborated in 13 EUREKA projects as well as EU funded programmes. A range of these projects will be displayed at the exhibition.

Partecipazione annunciata di Ministri dei paesi membri e della U.E. alla Conferenza Ministeriale di Londra

Alla Conferenza Ministeriale di Londra del 19 giugno '97 è prevista un'ampia partecipazione di Ministri Europei. Da quanto riferito dalla segreteria organizzativa della Presidenza U.K., hanno preannunciato la loro partecipazione i Ministri di 19 Paesi tra cui Regno Unito, Germania, Olanda, Spagna, Portogallo, Belgio. Sarà inoltre presente M.me Cresson per l'Unione Europea.

PAGINA BIANCA

CONSIDERAZIONI PER IL DIBATTITO: "Quali misure adottare per il Programma Quadro della UE ed EUREKA al fine di conseguire una maggiore incisività sul mercato mondiale della ricerca europea"

L'Europa non ha finora utilizzato nel modo più vantaggioso i suoi avamposti nella scienza e nella tecnologia manifestando una incapacità di trasformare la sua diffusa eccellenza scientifica in una eccellenza applicativa. Certamente le basi della ricerca europea sembrano meno orientate al mercato di quelle dei suoi principali concorrenti.

	Spesa totale in R&S rispetto al PIL (%)	Spesa industriale in R&S rispetto al PIL (%)	Personale addetto alla ricerca rispetto all'intera forza lavoro (%)
Unione Europea	1,9	1,0	0,47
Stati Uniti	2,5	1,6	0,74
Giappone	3,0	2,2	0,80

fonte : Commissione Europea

Una crescita economica ed occupazionale europea va sostenuta da una crescita di competitività dell'industria europea. La ricerca e l'innovazione sono fattori chiave di un tale obiettivo.

Gli interventi possono riguardare le seguenti direzioni:

1. Ridurre la frammentazione del sistema della ricerca europea con criteri di sinergia e complementarità e con un forte coordinamento dei sistemi nazionali.
2. Favorire la convergenza delle risorse finanziarie nazionali ed europee su obiettivi strategici che superino visioni localistiche e di breve termine e riguardino prospettive occupazionali e di mercato su basi temporali e regionali più ampie .
3. Modernizzare gli strumenti di governo della ricerca primariamente riferiti alle istituzioni pubbliche nazionali.
4. Stimolare una più intensa partecipazione del capitale privato alla ricerca industriale con misure di ordine legislativo e fiscale.
5. Intervenire su fattori non attinenti allo stretto ambito della responsabilità operativa dei settori tecnici. Fra questi: la proprietà intellettuale, la mobilità dei ricercatori ed il sostegno finanziario alle imprese favorendo strumenti quali il capitale di rischio.
6. Favorire la diffusione dell'innovazione, con particolare riguardo nei confronti delle PMI, mediante opportuni sostegni finanziari e mediante l'introduzione di meccanismi ed organismi di raccordo tra ricerca e impresa.

DEBATE

WHAT MEASURES CAN THE EU FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME AND EUREKA TAKE TO SUCCESSFULLY EXPLOIT EUROPEAN SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH IN THE WORLD MARKET PLACE

For ease of reference, a copy is attached of the paper on EU-EUREKA synergy which was prepared by the High Level Group and sent to the European Commission in December 1996.

SYNERGY BETWEEN EUREKA AND THE PROGRAMMES OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

A PAPER FROM THE HIGH LEVEL GROUP OF EUREKA

Over a number of years, EUREKA's Ministerial Conference and the Ministers of the European Union have endorsed the need for closer synergy between EUREKA and the Union's Research and Development Framework Programme. The will to translate this intent into action has been reaffirmed on several occasions at the highest levels of both organisations, notably the Fourth Framework Programme Decision, the Communiqué of the Edinburgh Summit and EUREKA's Third Medium Term Plan. Similarly, the principles on which such synergy should take place have been described and agreed, most notably in the Cayenne Paper, endorsed by the EUREKA Ministerial Conference in Paris in June 1993.

The key issue now is how to implement what has already been agreed. The preparatory work on the Fifth Framework Programme represents an ideal opportunity to optimise the relationships and inter-connections between the Framework Programme and EUREKA. The aim is to secure a significant increase in EU involvement in, and financial commitment to, EUREKA projects, in a way which respects and preserves the independent characters, structures and working methods of each framework - not least the bottom-up character of EUREKA.

The Member States of the European Union have separately made their submissions on the form they would like the Fifth Framework Programme to take, including the relationship it should have with EUREKA. The current document does not represent a complete statement of any or all Member States' view on this matter. It does, however, set out a series of practical implementing steps on which all EUREKA member states (including non-Union members who participate as associates in the Framework programme) are agreed. In view of the fact that this is a communication to the Commission, the latter, though a member of EUREKA, is not formally party to this document.

EUREKA may itself need to make some changes to its own procedures to give effect to the proposals below, though these changes are not detailed in the present paper. Individual EUREKA members are fully aware, however, that active engagement on their part is required to make synergy a reality.

The practical steps focus 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 and social conditions (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.

Step 1 - The Fifth Framework Programme Decision should reaffirm the commitment to synergy with EUREKA of the Fourth Programme. In particular:

- it should reaffirm the principle that a main objective of R&D policy is the reinforcement of industrial competitiveness
- it should specifically (though not exclusively) affirm the role of EUREKA as a route to the market for the results of Framework Programme research, and the wish of member states to see that route used as effectively as possible
- it should reaffirm the validity of Union participation in elements of individual EUREKA projects (in accordance with the criteria and rules to be agreed for the Fifth Framework Programme)
- it should reaffirm the Cayenne principle that EUREKA is a particularly valuable mechanism for the definition and execution of industrially-led projects of wider European strategic significance and impact.

Step 2 - A Framework programme which takes into account strategic European priorities could offer considerable scope to improve synergy. EUREKA itself, for its own purposes, intends to implement this strategic approach in a way which maintains its bottom-up character. Compatibility of priorities or themes between the two frameworks would enhance EUREKA's role as an effective mechanism for further exploitation of the results of Framework Programme research (where that is appropriate), as well as presenting industry and commerce with a more coherent and integrated set of initiatives at the European level. The absence of the latter is a frequent complaint from enterprises. This was clear in a report from a group of senior business

and industry representatives, led by Viscount Davignon, which was presented in June 1996 to the EUREKA Ministerial Conference in Brussels.

Step 3 - The 5th Framework Programme requires an enhanced element of flexibility over its lifetime. This would allow a response over time to technological change and developing priorities. Such flexibility would enable the EU to respond to EUREKA project proposals brought forward by industry involving elements of research which would be appropriate for Framework Programme funding. Two means of achieving this flexibility have been identified:

- ensuring that a significant part of the budget for individual programmes remains for distribution in the second half of the Framework Programme;
- an annual review of the work content of each programme, with a specific remit to consider whether there is a need to adapt the content to emerging priorities.

Step 4 - It must be made easier to set up projects, large or small, which contain elements potentially eligible for support in both the Framework Programme and EUREKA. Few industrially-led projects which are sufficiently ambitious to make a difference at a European level will fall neatly into the exclusive ambit of one or the other scheme. Multiple applications to different organisations for the same piece of work are rightly regarded by businesses as an irritating waste of time. Specific proposals to improve this situation are:

- representatives of both frameworks to discuss prospective project ideas of this type with the participants in advance of a formal application to ensure that the requirements of both initiatives and the scope of their respective involvements at the various stages of the project are properly understood.
- where some elements of such a project meet the EUREKA criteria and other elements *prima facie* meet Framework criteria, the scope of the project and the composition of the consortium should be accepted by the Commission without modification (subject, of course, to the normal peer review and financial scrutiny processes).
- once all necessary documentation has been provided by the applicants, a commitment by both frameworks to a swift "yes" or "no" answer within a timescale agreed between the parties concerned

- supplementing both initiatives' guidance on their respective applications processes with a joint note on the main considerations for applicants who wish to make a simultaneous application to both frameworks
- better general cross-referencing of EUREKA and Commission literature to the other programme

Step 5 - Improved communication between the two initiatives. The proposal is:

- an annual debate in the EUREKA High Level Group on the basis of a report from the National Project Co-ordinators Group on the steps taken in the field of synergy over the course of the year. This report would involve a substantial input from the Commission and from NPCs.

Step 6 - Greater encouragement to interested parties to see EUREKA as an efficient mechanism to take the results of EU-funded R&D further towards exploitation. Specific proposals are:

- greater emphasis on the adequacy of the exploitation plan in considering applications for Framework Programme funding, drawing attention to EUREKA and other mechanisms for subsequent exploitation where that might be of assistance
- where appropriate, the Commission should actively encourage participants in Framework projects to take the work on to the exploitation stage via EUREKA. Participants whose projects are nearing completion should be asked if they wish their details passed to EUREKA with a view to possible further exploitation in that context. EUREKA's partner search and other project building tools could then be put at their disposal.
- better information for prospective participants on funding arrangements for Central and Eastern Europe and the Newly Independent States under Activity 2 of the Framework Programme



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Facsimile Cover Sheet

TO: All NPC Offices

FROM: Ruth Little

DATE: 10 June 1997

DIRECT TELEPHONE LINE: 215 1497

PAGES INCLUDING COVER SHEET: 2

EUREKA MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE

In response to requests from several offices, I attach a list of topics which we think may come up in the debate at the conference, which you may find helpful when briefing your Minister.

Our aim is to get away from set piece *tour de table* type speeches and have a real debate where interventions respond to points raised by the other participants in the Conference, including some industry participants. A lot will depend on how many Ministers want to speak in the debate and the time at which your Minister might wish to make an intervention; but in principle there is nothing to stop any Minister asking for the floor for a second time to make an additional point or two prompted by the interventions of colleagues. In fact we would probably prefer several short interventions to one all encompassing speech.

If your Minister wishes to make a particular intervention about one of the topics listed, perhaps you could let David Wilson know and we will try and make ensure the Chairman, Mr Battle, gives them the chance to speak.

Please call me or David if you have any further questions at any stage.

Ruth Little

TOPICS QUESTIONS FOR MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE DEBATE

We expect the debate to focus on some of the following questions and issues.

1. How can governments and their agencies redress the balance between R&D investment in Europe and that in the USA and SE Asia, and does help have to be in the form of subsidy, or are there other options?
2. Will our industry benefit more from a 'fortress Europe' approach, or does our future prosperity lie in collaboration with these competitor areas?
- 3a UK and other European countries are good at innovation, but less good at the commercial exploitation of innovation. What can be done to exploit new ideas?
- 3b How important is Eureka's role as a route to the market for pre-competitive Framework research?
4. What do you see as the benefits of international collaboration?
- 5a. What can Eureka and Framework do together to help companies collaborate successfully?
- 5b Do we need both schemes and what do you see as their distinctive role?
Is synergy just a matter of luck, or is there anything we can do to encourage it?
6. What are the major stumbling blocks to collaboration and what can Eureka do to overcome them?
7. Should we recognise that many companies survive by buying in new technology and therefore expand to include technology transfer in Eureka's remit?