

### R&D Budget for 2001

The current Fifth Framework Programme (FP5) for Research, Technology Development and Demonstration Activities (RTD) sets out the priorities for the European Union RTD activities for the period 1998-2002. A budget of 13,7 billion euro has been agreed for the implementation of the European Community section of FP5. Combined with the 1,26 billion euro allocated to the Euratom programme, this should bring the global budget for research during 1999-2002 to 14,96 billion euro. This represents an increase, in absolute terms, of 4.61% compared to the Fourth Framework Programme.

FP5 objectives are long-term impact and the effects of synergy in terms of improved cooperation between teams. FP5 is made up of four thematic programmes: (1) life sciences, (2) information society, (3) sustainable industrial growth, and (4) energy and the environment. Their key actions are intended to mobilize the scientific and technological disciplines – both fundamental and applied – required to address a specific problem, thus overcoming barriers between disciplines and organisations. Three horizontal programmes cut across all themes, namely: (1) confirming the international role of Community research; (2) promoting innovation and encouraging SME participation; and, (3) improving human research potential and the socio-economic knowledge base.

For details on FP5 - EC and Euratom maximum amounts and breakdown (1998-2002), see <http://www.cordis.lu/fp5/src/budget.htm>. Click on each thematic programme to get breakdown by key action.

### S&T Structure in the European Union in 2001

#### The European Parliament

The European Parliament exercises legislative and budgetary power and monitors the European Commission. The standard legislative procedure followed is co-decision, which places the European Parliament and European Council on an equal footing.

The Parliamentary Committee on Industry, External Trade, Research and Energy is responsible for matters relating to fundamental or pre-industrial research, the Community research and technological development framework programme, and other specific programmes (Articles 163 to 173 of the EC Treaty), in particular: a) research and technological development agreements with third parties, and the application of such technological research and development; b) dissemination of research findings; c) the arrangements for the implementation of, or participation in, the framework research programme (Articles 168 to 171 of the EC Treaty). It is also responsible for the activities of the JRC, the Central Office for Nuclear Measurements, JET, ITER and other projects in the same area.

The Parliament receives S&T advice from the Scientific and Technological Options (STOA) Unit which happens to be located within DG Research. An annual STOA