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Committee on Budgets

2013/0282(NLE)

8.11.2013

DRAFT OPINION

of the Committee on Budgets

for the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy

on the draft Council decision concerning the renewal of the Agreement on cooperation in science and technology between the European Community and the Government of the Russian Federation
(13152/2013 – C7-0370/2013 – 2013/0282(NLE))

Rapporteur: Rolandas Paksas

PA_Leg_Consent

SHORT JUSTIFICATION

On 16 November 2000¹ the Council approved the conclusion of the Agreement on cooperation in science and technology between the European Community and the Government of the Russian Federation. The Agreement was concluded to encourage, develop and facilitate cooperation between the parties in research and technology development area. Furthermore, the Council approved the renewals of the Agreement for an additional period of five years in 2003² and 2009³ in its current form.

In its Proposal for a Council Decision⁴, dated 14 August 2013, the Commission proposes the renewal of the Agreement for an additional period of five years with the content of the renewed Agreement being identical to the content of the Agreement which expires on 20 February 2014. On 18 October 2013 the Council requests the Parliament to give its consent to the renewal of the agreement⁵.

The current renewal takes into account recommendations issued by independent experts from the European Union and the Russian Federation. The review⁶ was performed by two experts from the European Commission and two experts from the Russian Ministry of Education and Science between November 2012 and March 2013. The experts state that science and technology cooperation between EU and Russia should be continued and further intensified and they recommend the prolongation of the Agreement for the next term without any changes to its text. In addition, the prolongation of the Agreement is linked to the official start of the “EU-Russia Year of Science 2014”.

Total planned expenditure for the period of five years (2014-2019) is EUR 0.550 million. This expenditure is intended mainly to finance the servicing of the Agreement as well as workshops, seminars and joint meetings of officials and experts from both parties in Europe and Russia. Although the Committee on Budgets does not see any impediments to the renewal of the Agreement, it would like to insist that the Commission monitors carefully that the funds are spent in accordance with principles of sound financial management, namely principles of economy, efficiency and effectiveness and that actual scientists and researchers are actively participating in the programme and not only research administrators.

The Committee on Budgets calls on the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy, as the

¹ Council Decision 2000/742/EC of 16 November 2000 concerning the conclusion of the Agreement on cooperation in science and technology between the European Community and the Government of the Russian Federation (OJ L 299, 28.11.2000, p. 14)

² Council Decision 2003/798/EC of 18 November 2003 (OJ L 299, 18.11.2003, p. 20))

³ Council Decision 2009/313/EC of 30 March 2009 (OJ L 92, 4.4.2009, p.3)

⁴ Proposal for a Council Decision ref. 2013/0282 (NLE) – COM(2013)0583 final of 14 August 2013

⁵ Council request of 18 October 2013 addressed to Parliament to approve a draft decision concerning the renewal of the Agreement, ref. 13152/2013 RECH 385 COEST 240.

⁶ Review of the S&T Cooperation Agreement between the European Union and Russia of 08 April 2013, ref. Ares(2013)2859814 – 09/08/2013

committee responsible, to propose that Parliament give its consent to the renewal of the Agreement.