



The Research Fund for Coal and Steel

by

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Expiry of the European Coal and Steel Community treaty

- **23rd July 2002** - 50 years after its signature
- Coal and steel sectors placed **under the EC treaty**
- **Outstanding results** achieved by the ECSC research programmes
- Commission proposal to set up a Research Fund for Coal and Steel, using the remaining assets (€1,6 billion)

The Research Fund for Coal and Steel (RFCS)

- **Objectives:** to support **competitiveness** and to contribute to **sustainable development** of the Community sectors related to the **coal and steel** industry
- **Principles:** financial assistance mainly for **RTD projects** by promoting co-operation between undertakings, research centres and universities
- **Outside the RTD Framework programme**



- Budget: **about €60 million / year**, generated by the interests produced by the ECSC assets (€1,6 billion).

- Funding allocation:
 - **27,2% coal**
 - **72,8% steel**

Principles of participation

- Any undertaking, research institute or natural person established in any of the Member States
- Not necessarily directly connected with the coal, the iron and steel industry but the RTD proposal has to be within the scope of the programme
- Third countries can participate if bringing substantial added value to the programme objectives but always without EC financial support

Community *acquis*

Protocol annexed to the Nice Treaty: Council Decisions of 1st February 2003

- Council Decision 2003/76/EC - Measures necessary for the implementation of the Protocol
- Council Decision 2003/77/EC - Multiannual financial guidelines
- Council Decision 2003/78/EC - Multiannual technical guidelines

Community *acquis*

**Assets of the ECSC in liquidation: €1,6 billion
considered as “acquis” (EU15)**

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**€167 million to be paid by the 10 new Member
States + €12 million by Bulgaria + € 30 million by
Romania**

See Accession treaties: OJ L236 of 23 September
2003 and OJ L157 of 21 June 2005.