Within months of the announcement, in June 1996, of the appearance of a new variant of Creutzfeldt-Jakob-Disease (CJD), raising concerns about the transmission of Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) via the food chain, the Commission immediately assessed the scientific advice and present needs through the Weissman report and set out its intention at the Research Council of proposing an action plan for research on Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies.

In November 1996 the Commission adopted a communication (COM/96/582) entitled «A European initiative on research on transmissible spongiform encephalopathies» which outlined an action plan which identified the most important research priorities and the necessary budgetary requirements.

This action plan took into account the recommendations of the Weissmann report, the Multidisciplinary Scientific Committee as well as ongoing national and Community research activities. Based on the Council recommendations, the action plan was comprised of two levels:

- the co-ordination of activities between Member States, aimed at harmonization of data collection and diagnostic criteria;
- a specific call for RTD actions, intended to stimulate research efforts at Community level and to mobilise new and complementary expertise in order to attain sufficient European critical mass.

The financial envelope for such an initiative was estimated at 50.7 MECU.

Three calls for proposals for RTD activities within Community research programmes were launched between December 1996 and March 1998 to address the issue.

The Action plan has resulted in an excellent mobilisation of expertise from more than 150 laboratories throughout Member States and associated countries and far-reaching combination of scientific disciplines, which could contribute to speed knowledge acquisition in this field.

54 RTD projects are now being supported. The areas addressed by these projects include:

1) Clinical, epidemiological and social research
2) The infectious agent and its mechanisms of transmission
3) Diagnosis
4) Risk assessment
5) Treatment and prevention
6) Co-ordination of activities between Member states

The list of projects is provided in Annex 1. The abstracts of the projects and the list of participants have been published in the booklet «Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies: the European initiative». The booklet is available for free from the QoL infodesk e-mail: quality-of-life@cec.eu.int

The Quality of Life Programme, under the 5th Framework programme, continues to support research on animal and human TSE.

Three projects have been funded so far for a total EC contribution of 1.06 M€:

- two concerted actions aimed at supporting networks on neuropathology and validation of diagnostic tests;
- one shared-cost project aimed at evaluating the inactivation / removal effect of the gelatine manufacturing process on TSE infectivity;

The list of projects is provided in Annex 2. Other projects are likely to be funded during the life-time of 5th Frame work Programme.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CONTACTS in DG RESEARCH</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **BRUNO HANSEN**  
THE DIRECTOR  
Life Sciences : biotechnology,  
agricultural and food research | **EUROPEAN COMMISSION**  
DG RESEARCH E  
**SDME 8/62**  
RUE DE LA LOI, 200  
B-1049 BRUXELLES  
TEL: 32-2-296.36.95  
FAX: 32-2-299.16.72  
bruno.hansen@cec.eu.int |
| **LAURENT BOCHEREAU**  
ASSISTANT TO THE DIRECTOR  
Life Sciences : biotechnology,  
agricultural and food research | **EUROPEAN COMMISSION**  
DG RESEARCH E  
**SDME 8/63**  
RUE DE LA LOI, 200  
B-1049 BRUXELLES  
TEL: 32-2-296.33.33  
FAX: 32-2-299.16.72  
laurent.bochereau@cec.eu.int |
| **LIAM BRESLIN**  
HEAD OF UNIT  
Life Sciences : biotechnology,  
agricultural and food research  
*Health, Food and Environment* | **EUROPEAN COMMISSION**  
DG RESEARCH E.2  
**SDME 8/12**  
RUE DE LA LOI, 200  
B-1049 BRUXELLES  
TEL: 32-2-295.04.77  
FAX: 32-2-296.43.22  
liam.breslin@cec.eu.int |
| **ANTONIO DI GIULIO**  
SCIENTIFIC OFFICER  
Life Sciences : biotechnology,  
agricultural and food research  
*Health, Food and Environment* | **EUROPEAN COMMISSION**  
DG RESEARCH E.2  
**SDME 8/28**  
RUE DE LA LOI, 200  
B-1049 BRUXELLES  
TEL: 32-2-299.58.86  
FAX: 32-2-296.43.22  
anthony.di-giulio@cec.eu.int |
| **ISABEL MINGUEZ TUDELA**  
SCIENTIFIC OFFICER  
Life Sciences : health research  
*Infectious diseases* | **EUROPEAN COMMISSION**  
DG RESEARCH F.2  
**SDME 9/09**  
RUE DE LA LOI, 200  
B-1049 BRUXELLES  
TEL: 32-2-299.21.09  
FAX: 32-2-299.18.60  
isabel.minguez-tudela@cec.eu.int |
| **LINE GERTRUD MATTHIESSEN-GUYADER**  
SCIENTIFIC OFFICER  
Life Sciences : biotechnology,  
agricultural and food research  
*Policy aspects* | **EUROPEAN COMMISSION**  
DG RESEARCH E.1  
**SDME 9/08**  
RUE DE LA LOI, 200  
B-1049 BRUXELLES  
TEL: 32-2-295.28.53  
FAX: 32-2-299.18.60  
line-gertrud.matthiessen-guyader@cec.eu.int |
| **ELMAR NIMMESGERN**  
SCIENTIFIC OFFICER  
Life Sciences : health research  
*Generic activities* | **EUROPEAN COMMISSION**  
DG RESEARCH F.4  
**SDME 8/55**  
RUE DE LA LOI, 200  
B-1049 BRUXELLES  
TEL: 32-2-296.93.04  
FAX: 32-2-295.53.65  
elmar.nimmesgern@cec.eu.int |
## ANNEX 1

### 1. CLINICAL, EPIDEMIOLOGICAL AND SOCIAL RESEARCH ON HUMAN SE’S

| CT963698 | Coordination of National Surveillance Programmes for CJD in the European Union | R.G. WILL  
University of Edinburgh  
CJD Surveillance Unit  
E-mail: r.g.will@ed.ac.uk |
| CT972034 | Human Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies (Prion Diseases): Neuropathology and Phenotypic Variation | Herbert BUDKA  
Institute of Neurology  
University of Vienna  
E-mail: h.budka@akh-wien.ac.at |
| CT972216 | Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease in the European Union – Incidence and Risk Factors | R.G. WILL  
University of Edinburgh  
CJD Surveillance Unit  
E-mail: r.g.will@ed.ac.uk |
| CT976003 | Transgenic Mice Expressing Human Prion Protein Use for Characterisation of Human Encephalopathies, and Sensitivity for Detection of Infectivity | Jean-Jacques HAUW  
Association Claude Bernard pour le Développement des Recherches Biologiques et Médicales dans les Hopitaux de l'assistance Publique à Paris  
E-mail: jean-jacques.hauw@psl.ap-hop-paris.fr |
| CT976015 | European Centralized Facility for Human Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies (Prion Diseases) | Herbert BUDKA  
Institute of Neurology  
University of Vienna  
E-mail: h.budka@akh-wien.ac.at |
| PL987022 | A study of genetic factors in CJD | Cornelia M. VAN DUIJN  
Erasmus University Rotterdam  
E-mail: duijn@epib.fgg.eur.nl |

### 2. THE INFECTIOUS AGENT AND ITS TRANSMISSION MECHANISMS

| CT960601 | Basic Mechanism of Neurodegeneration in Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies: Role of Amyloidogenic Prion Protein PRP in glial Activation | Jan P.M. LANGEVELD  
Institute for Animal Science and Health (Id-Dlo)  
E-mail: j.p.m.langeveld@id.wag-ur.nl |
| CT960856 | Clinico-Pathological features and pathogenesis of fatal familial insomnia | Elio LUGARESI  
Università di Bologna  
Instituto di Clinica Neurologica  
E-mail: lugaresi@bo.nettuno.it |
| CT972679 | CJD and BSE: An integrated molecular and experimental neuropathological analysis of prion neurodegeneration, strain variation and transmission risks | John, COLLINGE,  
Imperial College School of Medicine at St Mary’s Neurogenetics Unit  
E-mail: j.collinge@ic.ac.uk |
| CT973305 | Improving prospects for scrapie control in sheep and goats by study of host genotypes, TSE isolates and their in vivo and in vitro interaction | Jean-Michel ELSEN  
Institut National de la Recherche Agronomique Inra-Saga  
E-mail: elsen@toulouse.inra.fr |
| CT973308 | Separation, identification and characterisation of the normal and abnormal isoform of prion protein from normal and experimentally infected fish | Carla BOLIS  
Institute of Pharmacological Sciences University of Milan  
Faculty of Pharmacy  
E-mail: bolis@mailserver.unimi.it |
| CT973311 | Analysis of molecular factors affecting variability in BSE and scrapie susceptibility | John WILLIAMS  
Roslin Institute (Edinburgh)  
Division of Molecular Biology  
E-mail: john.williams@bbsrc.ac.uk |
| CT973314 | Relationship between conformation of PRP, infectivity and pathogenicity of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) as a basis for diagnosis | Detlev RIESNER  
Heinrich-Heine-Universitaet Duesseldorf Institut Fuer Physikalische Biologie  
Email: riesner@biophys.uni-duesseldorf.de |
| CT976006 | Investigation of putative signal transduction processes of normal prion protein and their role in spongiform encephalopathy pathogenesis | Brian H. ANDERTON  
Institute of Psychiatry  
E-mail: b.anderton@iop.kcl.ac.uk |
| CT976022 | Role of PRP in prion spread and establishment of central nervous system infection | Dominique DORMONT  
Commissariat a l’énergie Atomique  
E-Mail: dormont@dsvidf.cea.fr |
| CT976040 | Prion diseases: Mechanisms of transmission and identification of targets for potential therapeutics | John COLLINGE  
The Imperial College of Science,  
E-mail: j.collinge@ic.ac.uk |
| CT976045 | Maintenance and transmission of yeast prions: a model system | Michael Francis TUITÉ  
University of Kent at Canterbury,  
Department of Biosciences  
E-mail: m.f.tuite@ukc.ac.uk |
| CT976050 | The bovine prion protein: From structure analysis to the molecular mechanism of conformational transitions | Maria Catia SORGATO  
Università Degli Studi di Padova  
Dipartimento di Chimica Biologica  
E-Mail: sorgato@civ.bio.unipd.it |
| CT976051 | Structure, function and interactions of prion proteins and prion protein domains | Hans A. KRETZSCHMAR  
Institut für Neuropathologie  
E-mail: Hans.Kretzschmar@inp.med.uni-muenchen.de |
| CT976055 | Trafficking pathways of normal and pathologic isofomrs of the prion protein | Sylvain LEHMANN  
Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique  
E-Mail: sylvain.lehmann@igh.cnrs.fr |
| CT976060 | Cerebellar networks alterations in prion diseases | Herbert AXELRAD  
Faculte de Medecine Pitie - Salpetriere  
Universite Paris VI  
E-Mail: axelrad@chups.jussieu.fr |
| CT983265 | Cellular pathogenesis of prion diseases | Hans A. KRETZSCHMAR  
Institut für Neuropathologie  
E-mail: Hans.Kretzschmar@inp.med.uni-muenchen.de |

3. Diagnosis of SE’s

| CT973304 | For the development of improved bioassays for BSE and scrapie agent detection ovine and bovine PRP transgenic | Martin GROSCHUP  
Federal Research Centre for Virus Diseases of Animals  
Institute for Vaccines at the Federal Research  
E-mail: martin.groschup@tue.bfav.de |
| CT973306 | New approaches to the diagnosis; and control of transmissible spongiform encephalopathies | Mark ROGERS  
University College Dublin  
Dept. of Zoology & Biotechnology Centre  
E-mail: mark.rogers@ucd.ie |
| CT973315 | Development of a novel diagnostic to assist quality assurance procedures in European meat production | Heinz C. SCHROEDER  
Johannes Gutenberg-Universitaet Mainz  
Institut fuer Physiologische Chemie  
E-Mail: hschoed@mail.uni-mainz.de |
| CT976011 | In vitro investigation of PRP-induced neurodegeneration: Development of a system for testing potential therapeutic agents | Alun WILLIAMS  
University of Glasgow  
E-mail: a.williams@vet.gla.ac.uk |
| CT976013 | PRPS distribution and kinetics in lymphoid tissues of sheep with natural scrapie: Effects of sheep PRP genotype and scrapie strains | Lucien VAN KEULEN  
DLO Institute for Animal Science and Health  
E-mail: L.j.m.vankeulen@id.dlo.nl |
| CT976016 | Analysis and function of 14-3-3 isoforms. Early diagnosis of Creutzfeld-Jakob disease | Alastair AITKEN  
Medical Research Council  
E-Mail: a-aitken@nimr.mrc.ac.uk |
| CT976046 | Diagnosis of Transmissible spongiform encephalopathies using PrPSc/PrPc specific antibodies | Hans A. KRETZSCHMAR  
Institut für Neuropathologie  
E-mail: Hans.Kretzschmar@inp.med.uni-muenchen.de |
| CT976048 | Quantitative analysis of MR scans in Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease | Alan COLCHESTER  
University of Kent at Canterbury  
Electronic Engineering Laboratory  
E-mail: a.colchester@ukc.ac.uk |
| CT976064 | Development of cell culture models of infectious forms of TSE | Hubert LAUDE  
Institut National de la Recherche Agronomique  
E-mail: laude@biotec.jouy.inra.fr |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reference</th>
<th>Title</th>
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<th>Institution</th>
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<tr>
<td>CT983727</td>
<td>Laboratory supported diagnosis of Creutzfeld-Jacob disease</td>
<td>Sigrid POSER</td>
<td>Klinik und Poliklinik für Neurologie Georg-August-Universität Göttingen</td>
<td>Fax: 49.551.39.7020</td>
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<tr>
<td>PL987024</td>
<td>Development and control of PRP SC based test in humans and animals using cerebrospinal fluid and brain tissue</td>
<td>Hans A. KRETZSCHMAR</td>
<td>Institut für Neuropathologie</td>
<td>E-mail: <a href="mailto:Hans.Kretzschmar@inp.med.uni-muenchen.de">Hans.Kretzschmar@inp.med.uni-muenchen.de</a></td>
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<td>4. RISK ASSESSMENT OF SE’S</td>
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<td>CT973301</td>
<td>Measures to reduce contamination of meat and environment with CNS tissue during slaughter and processing of cattle and sheep remcond</td>
<td>David HARBOUR</td>
<td>University of Bristol</td>
<td>E-mail: <a href="mailto:Dave.harbour@bristol.ac.uk">Dave.harbour@bristol.ac.uk</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CT976029</td>
<td>Risk assessment in primates of TSE transmission to humans through food and blood products</td>
<td>GERHARD HUNSMANN</td>
<td>Deutsches Primatenzentrum GMBH</td>
<td>E-Mail: <a href="mailto:ghunsm@gwdg.de">ghunsm@gwdg.de</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PL987004</td>
<td>Contamination of meat, and exposure of abattoir workers, by CNS material during standard butchering prevalent in the member states of the European Union euensis</td>
<td>David HARBOUR</td>
<td>University of Bristol</td>
<td>E-mail: <a href="mailto:Dave.harbour@bristol.ac.uk">Dave.harbour@bristol.ac.uk</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>PL987008</td>
<td>Establishing the resources for and examination of transcription changes occurring during BSE infection: A route to early diagnosis of infection and a detailed study of early molecular pathology</td>
<td>John WILLIAMS</td>
<td>Roslin Institute (Edinburgh)</td>
<td>E-mail: <a href="mailto:john.williams@bbsrc.ac.uk">john.williams@bbsrc.ac.uk</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PL987017</td>
<td>Genome scan for loci controlling scrapie incubation time in mouse and sheep</td>
<td>Jean-Michel ELSEN</td>
<td>Institut National de la Recherche Agronomique – Auzeville</td>
<td>E-mail: <a href="mailto:elsen@toulouse.inra.fr">elsen@toulouse.inra.fr</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>PL987020</td>
<td>PRP- Dimerization and oligomerization as a model for the evaluation of tetrasmission modalities and as a target for a therapeutic intervention against tse</td>
<td>Stefan WEISS</td>
<td>Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München</td>
<td>E-mail: <a href="mailto:weisse@lmb.uni-muenchen">weisse@lmb.uni-muenchen</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PL987023</td>
<td>Role of environmental and host factors on the horizontal and vertical transmission of scrapie in naturally infected sheep floc</td>
<td>Lucas GRUNER</td>
<td>Institut National de la Recherche Agronomique – Nouzilly</td>
<td>E-mail: <a href="mailto:gruner@tours.inra.fr">gruner@tours.inra.fr</a></td>
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<td>5. TREATMENT AND PREVENTION OF SE’S</td>
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<td>CT976030</td>
<td>TSE spiking experiments for process validations: Evaluation of different sources of infectivity and spiking approaches</td>
<td>Herwig E. REICHL</td>
<td>Haemosan Erzeugung</td>
<td>E-mail: <a href="mailto:herwig.reichl@haemosan.com">herwig.reichl@haemosan.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>CT976054</td>
<td>Development of TSE therapies based on prion protein-binding oligosaccharides</td>
<td>Ruth GABIZON</td>
<td>Hadassah University Hospital</td>
<td>E-Mail: <a href="mailto:gabizonr@hadassah.org.il">gabizonr@hadassah.org.il</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>CT976065</td>
<td>Inactivation of the causative agents of transmissible spongiform encephalopathies by thermophilic and hyperthermophilic proteases</td>
<td>Neil RAVEN</td>
<td>Microbial Research Authority Acting Through its Centre for Applied Microbiology and Research</td>
<td>E-Mail: <a href="mailto:neil.raven@camr.org.uk">neil.raven@camr.org.uk</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PL987015</td>
<td>Low levels of TSE infectivity in blood: Determination of titre and evaluation of removal</td>
<td>Herwig Ernst REICHL</td>
<td>Haemosan, Erzeugung Pharmazeutischer Grundstoffe</td>
<td>E-mail: <a href="mailto:herwig.reichl@haemosan.com">herwig.reichl@haemosan.com</a></td>
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<td>PL987019</td>
<td>TSE-Agent inactivation, product quality evaluation and sterilization process simulation in rendering processes for the production of feed grade animal proteins</td>
<td>Radulf OBERTHÜR</td>
<td>Labor Dr. Oberthür GBMH</td>
<td>E-mail: <a href="mailto:fmb.ob@-online.de">fmb.ob@-online.de</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PL987026</td>
<td>Infectivity of blood components in experimental NVCJD: Towards a risk assessment for human blood</td>
<td>Gerald EDER</td>
<td>Baxter Aktiengesellschaft</td>
<td>e-mail: <a href="mailto:ederg@baxter.com">ederg@baxter.com</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| CT976056 | Concerted action for the setting up of multicentric epidemiological databases and biological samples banks for small ruminant scrapie | Frederic LANTIER
Institut National de la Recherche Agronomique
E-Mail: lantier@tours.inra.fr |
| CT976057 | Building a common database on scientific research and public decision on TSE in Europe | Pierre-Benoit JOLY
Institut National De La Recherche Agronomique
E-Mail: joly@grenoble.inra.fr |
| CT987006 | Development of a pre-clinical test to differentiate between scrapie and BSE infection in sheep | Lucien Johannes VAN KEULEN
DLO Institute for Animal Science and Health
E-mail: l.j.m.vankeulen@id.dlo.nl |
| CT987021 | The establishment of a European network for the surveillance of ruminant TSE and the standardisation and harmonisation of the process and criteria for the identification of suspected cases | Mark ROGERS
University College Dublin
E-mail: mark.rogers@ucd.ie |
| CT987028 | Public receptions of BSE and CJD risk in Europe, their interplay with media, policy initiatives and surveillance issues. Drawing the lessons for lessons for information policy | Carlos DORA
World Health Organisation
E-mail: cdo@who.it |
| CT983651 | A network for the supply of BSE tissues and fluids for European collaborative research | Stan DONE
Vet. Lab. Agency
E-mail: s.done@vla.maff.gsi.gov.uk |
**ANNEX 2**

| CT9930009 | Evaluation of the inactivation / removal effect of the gelatine manufacturing process on TSE infectivity | THOMSON  
Gelatin Manufacturers of Europe Brussels  
E-mail : jth@cefic.be |
| CT9930837 | Human Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies: The Neuropathology network’ | Herbert BUDKA  
Klinisches Institut für Neurologie der Universität Wien, AT  
E-mail : h.budka@vm230.akh-wien.ac.at |
| CT9930837 | EUROCJD | Robert G. WILL  
CJD Surveillance Unit  
E-mail : r.g.will@ed.ac.uk |