


Basic information	
1995/0159(SYN) SYN - Cooperation procedure (historic) Development cooperation: decentralized cooperation Repealed by 2004/0220(COD) Amended by 2001/0243(COD) Amended by 2003/0156(COD) Subject 6.30 Development cooperation	Procedure completed




Key players					
European Parliament	Committee responsible		Rapporteur	Appointed	
	DEVE Development		VECCHI Luciano (PSE)	08/09/1995	
	Former committee responsible		Former rapporteur	Appointed	
	DEVE Development		VECCHI Luciano (PSE)	08/09/1995	
	Former committee for opinion		Former rapporteur for opinion	Appointed	
	BUDG Budgets				
	CONT Budgetary Control		WYNN Terence (PSE)	05/09/1995	
	Council of the European Union	Council configuration		Meetings	Date
		General Affairs		1943	1996-07-16
Economic and Financial Affairs ECOFIN		2039	1997-11-05		
Budget		2114	1998-07-17		
Development		1897	1995-12-20		
Development		1928	1996-05-28		

Key events			
Date	Event	Reference	Summary
10/07/1995	Legislative proposal published	COM(1995)0290 	Summary

18/09/1995	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
23/11/1995	Vote in committee		Summary
23/11/1995	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading	A4-0301/1995	
15/12/1995	Decision by Parliament	T4-0659/1995	Summary
15/12/1995	Debate in Parliament		Summary
20/12/1995	Debate in Council		
28/05/1996	Debate in Council		
16/07/1996	Resolution/conclusions adopted by Council		
05/11/1997	Council position published	10703/1/1997	Summary
15/01/1998	Committee referral announced in Parliament, 2nd reading		
18/03/1998	Vote in committee, 2nd reading		Summary
18/03/1998	Committee recommendation tabled for plenary, 2nd reading	A4-0096/1998	
01/04/1998	Decision by Parliament, 2nd reading	T4-0192/1998	Summary
01/04/1998	Debate in Parliament	CRE link	Summary
08/07/1998	Modified legislative proposal published	COM(1998)0408 	Summary
17/07/1998	Act adopted by Council after consultation of Parliament		
17/07/1998	End of procedure in Parliament		
30/07/1998	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	1995/0159(SYN)
Procedure type	SYN - Cooperation procedure (historic)
Nature of procedure	Legislation
	Repealed by 2004/0220(COD) Amended by 2001/0243(COD) Amended by 2003/0156(COD)
Legal basis	EC before Amsterdam E 130W
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	DEVE/4/09498

Documentation gateway				
European Parliament				
Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading		A4-0301/1995 OJ C 339 18.12.1995, p. 0004	23/11/1995	
Committee recommendation tabled for plenary, 2nd reading		A4-0096/1998 OJ C 138 04.05.1998, p. 0006	18/03/1998	
Council of the EU				
Document type	Reference	Date	Summary	
Council position	10703/1/1997 OJ C 043 09.02.1998, p. 0001	05/11/1997	Summary	

European Commission			
Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Legislative proposal	COM(1995)0290  OJ C 250 26.09.1995, p. 0013	10/07/1995	Summary
Commission communication on Council's position	SEC(1997)2312 	11/12/1997	Summary
Modified legislative proposal	COM(1998)0408 	08/07/1998	Summary

Final act	
Regulation 1998/1659 OJ L 213 30.07.1998, p. 0006-0008	Summary

Development cooperation: decentralized cooperation

1995/0159(SYN) - 11/12/1997 - Commission communication on Council's position

In its opinion on the common position of the Council concerning the proposal for a Regulation on decentralized cooperation, the Commission takes the view that, in many respects, the Council's text is unacceptable. Several declarations have been added to the minutes annexed to the common position of the Council which indicate the Commission's rejection of this text. The main points of controversy between the Commission and Council include: 1) the indication of a financial reference amount in a text adopted under the cooperation procedure (only texts adopted under the codecision procedure are allowed to include financial reference amounts). The amount itself is highly contentious, as the Commission considers it far too small to enable the Commission to carry out the duties entrusted to it by the Regulation. In the Commission's view, the inclusion of a financial reference amount would not in any way affect the powers of the budgetary authority on the matter; 2) the limited period of validity of the Regulation (from 01.01.1998 to 31.12.2000); the Commission takes the view that the nature of the measures for which the Regulation provides is such that they cannot be regarded as 'pilot' projects, which would have justified a limited period of validity. It considers, moreover, that it is incorrect to say that the Regulation will remain in existence for 3 years (until 31.12.2000) because it will not be able to enter into force until mid-1998; 3) the stipulation of a specific procedure (type II(b) committee rather than a type III(a) committee procedure) for projects to which grants exceeding ECU 1 m are allocated: the Commission considers this article to be contrary to the general practice in the field of development and says that under no circumstances may the article be regarded as setting a precedent for other budget headings (it would have preferred a threshold of ECU 2 m). In conclusion, the Commission says that, although the common position represents the only compromise possible after several months of discussion, it does not resolve the underlying question raised by the Regulation, which is of a political nature, namely the future of the budget heading and its real impact with regard to promoting decentralized cooperation at Community level. Originally, the Regulation was conceived as a way of promoting a new approach to European cooperation policy which would focus on agents rather than projects. The introduction of the new approach will take a long time, but this is not reflected in the Council text or the 'pilot' character of the action to be taken.

Development cooperation: decentralized cooperation

1995/0159(SYN) - 17/07/1998 - Final act

OBJECTIVE: To lay down the administrative procedures for Community decentralised cooperation aiming to support operations and initiatives on sustainable development undertaken by decentralised cooperation agents of the EU and developing countries. **COMMUNITY MEASURE:** Council Regulation (EC) 1659/98 on decentralised cooperation. **SUBSTANCE:** The regulation covers a three-year period (1999-2001). A reference amount of ECU 18 m is entered in the budget for this programming period. Decentralised cooperation aims to promote: . a participatory approach to development by people in the developing countries, responding to their needs and initiatives, . diversification and reinforcement of civil society and grass roots democracy in these countries, . mobilisation of decentralised cooperation agents in developing countries and the Community in pursuit of these objectives. All developing countries may benefit from this action. Cooperation partners are local authorities, NGOs, local professional or traders' associations, cooperatives, trade unions, women's and youth organisations, teaching and research institutions, churches and associations in developing countries and the Community. Actions to be implemented: development of human and technical resources and local rural or urban social and economic development in the developing countries, information and mobilisation of decentralised cooperation agents, support for strengthening the institutional capacities of such agents and their capacity for action. There are strict criteria for project selection: viability of operations, experience gained from operations of the same kind, etc. Community financing covers investment expenditure (except for the purchase of buildings) and recurring expenditure (including administrative and operating expenditure). Co-financing with local agents and Member States is sought where possible. There are provisions for coordination measures to this end. Financial support takes the form of non-reimbursable grants. With regard to decision-making procedure, the Commission is responsible for deciding on and administering operations. It is assisted by a geographically determined committee competent for development made up of representatives from the Member States. Decision on operations requiring finance of more than ECU 1 m are taken by committee procedure (Type II b committee). Participation in invitations to tender and the award of contracts is open to developing countries and the Member States and to other developing countries or third countries in exceptional cases. The Commission and the Member States will hold an annual exchange of views on future operations. An annual report is to be forwarded to Parliament and the Council summarising the operations

financed in the course of that year (including information on contracts concluded). There will also be quarterly reports on operations and projects approved and an evaluation of them. Before the end of 2000 an overall assessment will be submitted to Council and Parliament, accompanied by suggestions concerning the future of the regulation. ENTRY INTO FORCE: 2/08/1998. The regulation is applicable until 31/12/2001.

Development cooperation: decentralized cooperation

1995/0159(SYN) - 15/12/1995 - Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading

In adopting the report by Mr VECCHI (PSE, I), the European Parliament approved this proposal for a regulation with the following amendments: -this type of cooperation should encourage the development of human resources (with particular reference to education for all) and technical resources in the developing countries; -participation in invitations to tender and the award of contracts should also be open to other developing countries. Where the quality of offers is the same, applicants from the recipient country and from developing countries in the same region should be given preferential treatment; -a representative of the EP should take part in the exchange of views. At the same time, the EP is opposed to these meetings being organized in the framework of the EDF, MED and ALA Committees. They should be held in public and the full minutes transmitted to the EP and the Council for information within ten working days of each meeting (a detailed summary of contracts awarded should also be transmitted to the EP).

Development cooperation: decentralized cooperation

1995/0159(SYN) - 10/07/1995 - Legislative proposal

OBJECTIVE: to lay down the administrative procedures for Community decentralized cooperation aiming to support development operations and initiatives undertaken by decentralized cooperation agents of the European Union and developing countries (DC/ALA, DC/FED, Mediterranean).
CONTENT: - Decentralized cooperation aims to promote: . a participatory approach to development by people in the developing countries, responding to their needs and initiatives; . reinforcement of civil society and grass roots democracy in these countries; . mobilization of decentralized agents in developing countries and the European Union in pursuit of these objectives. - Beneficiaries: all developing countries. - Cooperation partners: local authorities, NGOs, local professional associations, cooperatives, women's and youth organizations, teaching institutions, churches and associations in developing countries and the European Union. - Actions to be implemented: development of human and technical resources, local rural or urban development, information and mobilization of decentralized agents, support for strengthening the institutional capacities of such agents and their capacity for action. They mainly include funding studies, technical assistance, training, work supplies etc. Community financing covers investment expenditure (except for the purchase of buildings) and operating expenditure in foreign or local currency. Co-financing is sought with local agents (where possible) and Member States. There are provisions for coordination measures to this end. - Type of aid: grants. - Decision-making procedure: the Commission is responsible for operations under this regulation. Participation in invitations to tender and the award of contracts is open to developing countries and the Member States and to other developing or third countries in exceptional cases. - Exchange of views: the Commission and the Member States will hold an annual exchange of views on future operations together with the EDF, MED and ALA committees. - Information: an annual report is forwarded to the European Parliament and the Council summarizing and evaluating the operations financed in the course of the year (contracts concluded, external evaluations etc.). - Budget: the financial statement makes provision for a budget of 8 million ecus in 1996 (this cooperation does not include any provisions as to duration and is therefore renewable annually).

Development cooperation: decentralized cooperation

1995/0159(SYN) - 05/11/1997 - Council position

After more than a year and a half of discussion among the delegations from the various Member States, the Council succeeded in arriving at a compromise on a common position on the Commission proposal for a Regulation on decentralized cooperation. The common position deviated substantially from the original Commission proposal and from the position of the European Parliament at first reading, particularly as regards: . committee (reinstatement of a type II(b) committee for certain financial decisions), .the budget, a reference amount of ECU 18 m over three years (1998-2000) being quoted in the Regulation, .the period of application of the Regulation: initially it was to apply for an indefinite period, but the Council decided that it should apply only until 31.12.2000. As regards the amendments adopted by Parliament at first reading, only two were incorporated by the Council: one referring to the European Parliament's resolutions on the field in question and one concerning the development of human resources, but without specifying that the concern was to improve the training of beneficiaries. The amendments on improving openness and the provision of information to the European Parliament were not incorporated, and nor were those concerning the eligibility of developing countries for certain supply contracts provided for under such cooperation. In addition to the above-mentioned fundamental changes, the Council added a series of further new points to the basic text: - the introduction of criteria for evaluating projects and programmes proposed for Community financing; - the introduction of strict decision-making procedures for the projects funded: decisions relating to grants of more than ECU 1 million will be taken using the type II(b) committee procedure; general annual guidelines will be examined by the various geographically determined committees competent.

Development cooperation: decentralized cooperation

1995/0159(SYN) - 01/04/1998 - Text adopted by Parliament, 2nd reading

In adopting the report by Mr Luciano VECCHI (PSE, UK) on decentralized cooperation, Parliament amended the Council's common position, rejecting the main provisions proposed by the Council. These provisions seek to: - limit to three years (i.e. until 31 December 2000) the period of application of this regulation, - set a financial reference amount of ECU 18 million for the three years of the programme, - submit projects and programmes of a value of more than ECU 1 million to a committee. Parliament also reintroduced certain amendments already adopted at first reading: - participation in invitations to tender and the award of contract to be open on equal terms to natural and legal persons of the Member States, the recipient country and other developing countries, - where the quality of offers is the same, applicants from the recipient country and from developing countries in the same regions to be given preferential treatment, - greater transparency in the exchanges of views on the general guidelines for operations to be carried out in the year ahead and a representative of the European Parliament to attend the exchange of views. Parliament also hoped that the Community character of aid provided under this Regulation would be emphasized. Lastly, amendments were made with regard to committee.

Development cooperation: decentralized cooperation

1995/0159(SYN) - 08/07/1998 - Modified legislative proposal

In its re-examined proposal following Parliament's opinion at second reading, the Commission has incorporated in full or in part 12 of the 17 amendments adopted by Parliament. These amendments aim to: - redefine the aims of decentralised cooperation and the use of the budget heading, - delete the financial reference amount, - emphasise the Community character of aid, - ensure the partners in operations are clearly identified in the annual report to be forwarded to Parliament, - reduce the amount of information to be supplied by the Commission on operations undertaken and the results of evaluations, - delete the limit imposed by the Council on the period of application of the regulation. The Commission has not taken up the amendments advocating: - participation by Parliament in exchanges of views on the annual guidelines of the regulation, - the introduction of preferential treatment for applicants from the recipient country with regard to invitations to tender, - modification of the commitment procedure and of the ceiling of ECU 1 m for actions which must be subject to a committee decision.