



Basic information	
2003/0156(COD) COD - Ordinary legislative procedure (ex-codecision procedure) Regulation	Procedure completed
Development cooperation: decentralised cooperation, 2004-2006 Amending Regulation (EC) No 1659/98 1995/0159(SYN) Subject 6.30 Development cooperation 8.70.60 Previous annual budgets	

Key players				
European Parliament	Committee responsible		Rapporteur	Appointed
	DEVE Development		ZIMMERLING Jürgen (PPE-DE)	09/07/2003
	Committee for opinion		Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
	BUDG Budgets		AVEROFF Ioannis (PPE-DE)	11/09/2003
Council of the European Union	Council configuration		Meetings	Date
	Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs		2567	2004-03-04
European Commission	Commission DG		Commissioner	
	Development			

Key events			
Date	Event	Reference	Summary
11/07/2003	Legislative proposal published	COM(2003)0413 	Summary
01/09/2003	Committee referral announced in Parliament, 1st reading		
26/11/2003	Vote in committee, 1st reading		Summary
26/11/2003	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading	A5-0431/2003	
17/12/2003	Debate in Parliament	CRE link	
18/12/2003	Decision by Parliament, 1st reading	T5-0595/2003	Summary
04/03/2004	Act adopted by Council after Parliament's 1st reading		
31/03/2004	Final act signed		

31/03/2004	End of procedure in Parliament		
03/04/2004	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2003/0156(COD)
Procedure type	COD - Ordinary legislative procedure (ex-codecision procedure)
Nature of procedure	Legislation
Legislative instrument	Regulation
	Amending Regulation (EC) No 1659/98 1995/0159(SYN)
Legal basis	EC Treaty (after Amsterdam) EC 179-p1
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed

Documentation gateway				
European Parliament				
Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading		A5-0431/2003	26/11/2003	
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading		T5-0595/2003 OJ C 091 15.04.2004, p. 0525-0657 E	18/12/2003	Summary
European Commission				
Document type	Reference	Date	Summary	
Legislative proposal	COM(2003)0413 	11/07/2003	Summary	

Additional information		
Source	Document	Date
European Commission	EUR-Lex	

Final act
Regulation 2004/0625 OJ L 099 03.04.2004, p. 0001-0002 Summary

Development cooperation: decentralised cooperation, 2004-2006

2003/0156(COD) - 18/12/2003 - Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading

The European Parliament adopted a resolution based drafted by Jürgen ZIMMERLING (EPP-ED, D), making some amendments to the Commission's proposals. The main amendments are as follows: - the committee amendment increasing the budget for the programme was rejected by Parliament; - an additional objective was added, that of strengthening the networks of social organisations and movements campaigning for sustainable

development, human rights, in particular social rights, and democratisation; - cooperation partners include organisations of indigenous peoples, local organisations (including networks) which are active in the area of regional decentralised cooperation and integration, cultural, research and scientific organizations, religious associations or communities, media, and any nongovernmental associations and independent foundations likely to contribute to development; - the activities of the agents associated with the objectives of the Regulation should be transparent and comply with the principles of sound financial management and accountability; - as part of the annual report to the European Parliament and the Council on the implementation of development policy, the Commission must present a summary of the operations financed, the impacts and results of such operations and an independent evaluation of the implementation of the Regulation during the year, as well as details of the decentralised cooperation actors with whom contracts have been concluded.

Development cooperation: decentralised cooperation, 2004-2006

2003/0156(COD) - 11/07/2003 - Legislative proposal

PURPOSE : to extend and amend Council Regulation 1659/98/EC on decentralised Cooperation. **CONTENT** : Council Regulation 1659/98/EC on decentralised cooperation was applicable until 31 December 2001. This Regulation was amended and extended by Regulation 955/2002/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council until December 2003. On 7 November 2002, in line with and in addition to the principles enshrined in those texts, the Commission adopted the Communication on the Participation of Non-State Actors in EC Development Policy COM (2002) 598 final, refer to INI/2002/2283). In the context of a policy geared to the objective of poverty reduction, the Communication clarified what is expected of non-state actor organisations in partner countries. The aim of non-state actor involvement is to create conditions for greater equity, for the inclusion of the poor in the benefits of growth and for strengthening the democratic fabric of society. In parallel, the Commission ordered an evaluation of the budget instrument on decentralised co-operation (B7-6002, refer to COD/2001/0243) which was completed in March 2003. This evaluation shows that the budget heading is still important as a complementary instrument recommending better geographical and thematic targeting for the eligible actions, further involvement of decentralised actors from developing countries and further diversification of decentralised non-state actors. The evaluation concluded that the Budget Line should still be maintained as a necessary complement to the different instruments of cooperation. Its main recommendations aim at increasing the Budget Line coherence and at clarifying its specific character. Regulation 1659/98/EC should be amended and extended until 31 December 2006 following the completion of the evaluation and the adoption of the Commission Communication on the Participation of non-State actors in EC development policy. The financial framework and reference period indicated should be adjusted. This proposal aims to do such that. **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS** : as stated, the financial reference amount will have to be adjusted. In the current regulation, the figure was EUR 24 million. This proposal specifies a reference amount of EUR 18 million for the period of 2004 - 2006. This amount is being justified on the grounds of the strategic approach to provide a balanced and equitable support for decentralised co-operation where the traditional instruments of co-operation do not exist or are not relevant. That amount has been calculated on the one hand on the committed credits performed from 1998 to 2003 (EUR 25,4 million) giving an average rate per year of EUR 4,2 million and on the other hand on an amount of EUR 6million committed in 2003 and a EUR 5 million anticipated for 2004. However, it should be pointed out that financing needs observed in recent years have far exceeded the sums provided by the budget authority and that the quality of requests has improved appreciably.

Development cooperation: decentralised cooperation, 2004-2006

2003/0156(COD) - 31/03/2004 - Final act

PURPOSE : to extend and amend Council Regulation 1659/98/EC on decentralised Cooperation. **LEGISLATIVE ACT** : Regulation 625/2004/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council extending and amending Regulation 1659/98/EC on decentralised cooperation. **CONTENT** : the Council adopted this Regulation amending amending and extending until 31 December 2006 Regulation 1659/98 on poverty reduction and sustainable development initiatives undertaken by decentralised co-operation agents in developing countries under the Community's policy on development co-operation. The Regulation is aimed at supporting operations in specific situations and difficult partnerships where traditional instruments cannot be used. The modification of Regulation 1659/98 follows the completion of an evaluation and the adoption by the Commission of a communication on the participation of non-state actors in Community development policy. The Community shall support operations and initiatives undertaken by decentralised cooperation agents of the Community and the developing countries centred on poverty reduction and sustainable development, particularly in situations involving difficult partnerships where other instruments cannot be used. Such operations and initiatives shall promote: - a more participatory approach to development, responsive to the needs and initiatives of the populations in the developing countries, - a contribution to the diversification and reinforcement of civil society and grassroots democracy in the countries concerned. In supporting such operations and initiatives, priority shall be given to decentralised cooperation agents of the developing countries. All developing countries shall be eligible for operations to promote decentralised cooperation." The cooperation partners eligible for financial support pursuant to this Regulation shall be decentralised cooperation agents in the Community or the developing countries, such as: local (including municipal) authorities, non-governmental organisations, organisations of indigenous peoples, local traders' associations and local citizens' groups, cooperatives, trade unions, economic and social actors organisations, local organisations (including networks) which are active in the area of regional decentralised cooperation and integration, consumer organisations, women's and youth organisations, teaching, cultural, research and scientific organisations, universities, churches and religious associations or communities, media and any non-governmental associations and independent foundations likely to contribute to development. The Community financing of the operations shall cover a period of three years. The financial framework for the implementation of this programme for the period 2004 to 2006 shall be EUR 18 million. The annual appropriations shall be authorised by the budgetary authority within the limits of the financial perspective. **ENTRY INTO FORCE** : 6 April 2004.