





Basic information	
2003/0260(COD) COD - Ordinary legislative procedure (ex-codecision procedure) Regulation	Procedure completed
LIFE III, financial instrument for the environment: extension until 31 December 2006 Amending Regulation (EC) No 1655/2000 1998/0336(COD) Subject 3.70 Environmental policy	

Key players				
European Parliament	Committee responsible		Rapporteur	Appointed
	 ENVI	Environment, Climate and Food Safety	JACKSON Caroline (PPE-DE)	27/11/2003
	Committee for opinion		Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
	 BUDG	Budgets	HAUG Jutta (PSE)	26/11/2003
Council of the European Union	Council configuration		Meetings	Date
	General Affairs		2602	2004-07-26
	Environment		2556	2003-12-22
European Commission	Commission DG		Commissioner	
	Environment			

Key events			
Date	Event	Reference	Summary
05/11/2003	Legislative proposal published	COM(2003)0667 	Summary
17/11/2003	Committee referral announced in Parliament, 1st reading		
22/12/2003	Debate in Council		
08/03/2004	Vote in committee, 1st reading		Summary
08/03/2004	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading	A5-0137/2004	
21/04/2004	Decision by Parliament, 1st reading	T5-0334/2004	Summary
26/07/2004	Act adopted by Council after Parliament's 1st reading		
15/09/2004	Final act signed		

15/09/2004	End of procedure in Parliament		
05/10/2004	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2003/0260(COD)
Procedure type	COD - Ordinary legislative procedure (ex-codecision procedure)
Procedure subtype	Legislation
Legislative instrument	Regulation
	Amending Regulation (EC) No 1655/2000 1998/0336(COD)
Legal basis	EC Treaty (after Amsterdam) EC 175-p1
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	ENVI/5/20308

Documentation gateway				
European Parliament				
Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading		A5-0137/2004	08/03/2004	
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading		T5-0334/2004 OJ C 104 30.04.2004, p. 0422-0622 E	21/04/2004	Summary
European Commission				
Document type	Reference	Date	Summary	
Legislative proposal	COM(2003)0667 	05/11/2003	Summary	
Other institutions and bodies				
Institution/body	Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
ESC	Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report	CES1603/2003 OJ C 080 30.03.2004, p. 0057-0058	10/11/2003	

Additional information		
Source	Document	Date
European Commission	EUR-Lex	

Final act

LIFE III, financial instrument for the environment: extension until 31 December 2006

2003/0260(COD) - 15/09/2004 - Final act

PURPOSE : to amend the LIFE Regulation.

LEGISLATIVE ACT : Regulation 1682/2004/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulation 1655/2000/EC concerning the Financial Instrument for the Environment (LIFE).

CONTENT : this Regulation extends the current LIFE Regulation in order to ensure continuity until a new approach is developed in view of the new post-2006 financial perspectives. The extension avoids a legal gap between the end of the LIFE III phase on 31 December 2004 and the introduction of the new financial perspectives. The extension covers 2 years until 31 December 2006.

The main points of this Regulation are as follows:

- the committee procedure to which the implementation measures of the Life Regulation are subject is modified to take account of the judgement issued by the Court of Justice in January 2003;
- the financial framework for the implementation of the Regulation is set at EUR 317.2 million;
- there is an increase for accompanying measures from 5 to 6% of the budget to allow for a further improvement in the dissemination and monitoring activities;

- by 30 September 2005, the Commission will submit a report evaluating the implementation

of the Regulation, and, if appropriate, a proposal for the further development of LIFE or a financial instrument exclusively in the environmental field that will take account of the recommendations of the review of LIFE, to apply from 2007 onwards;

- a special scheme is introduced to allow for the continuation of monitoring activities of projects still active after 2006;
- the salary costs of a civil servant will be considered eligible only to the extent that they relate to the cost of activities that the relevant public authority would not carry out if the project concerned were not undertaken;
- a grant for the acquisition of land is subject to the condition that the land purchased is reserved in the long term for uses of land consistent with the objective of LIFE-nature. Member States must ensure the long-term reservation of such land for nature conservation purposes;
- projects receiving aid provided for under the Structural Funds or other Community budget instruments will not be eligible for financial assistance under this Regulation. The Commission must ensure that applicants' attention is drawn to the fact that they cannot cumulate subsidies from different Community funds. Appropriate measures will be put in place to prevent the possibility of double funding.

ENTRY INTO FORCE : 08/10/04.

LIFE III, financial instrument for the environment: extension until 31 December 2006

2003/0260(COD) - 21/04/2004 - Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading

The European Parliament adopted a resolution drafted by Caroline JACKSON (Epp-ED, UK) and made some amendments to the proposal. These amendments take into account the concerns related to land purchase with LIFE financing and the avoidance of double funding. The amendments are part of a first reading compromise package reached between the rapporteur, the major political groups and the Council: - projects receiving aid provided for under the Structural Funds or other Community budget instruments shall not be eligible for financial assistance under the Regulation. The Commission must ensure that applicants' attention is drawn to the fact that they cannot cumulate subsidies from different Community funds. Appropriate measures shall be put in place to prevent the possibility of double funding; - a new clause states that the salary costs of a civil servant shall be considered eligible only to the extent that they relate to the cost of activities that the relevant public authority would not carry out if the project concerned were not undertaken; - the grant of assistance in respect of purchase of land must be subject to the condition that the land is reserved in the long term for uses of land consistent with the objective of LIFE. Member States must ensure the long-term reservation of such land for nature conservation purposes; - the compromise sets the budget EUR 317.2 million, which is the amount proposed by the Commission. However, the budgetary authority shall authorise annual appropriations within the limits of the applicable financial perspective; - the Commission must ensure that the results of all funded projects are disseminated to the general public and shall further demonstrate how the skills and experience gained may be reproduced elsewhere.

LIFE III, financial instrument for the environment: extension until 31 December 2006

2003/0260(COD) - 05/11/2003 - Legislative proposal

PURPOSE : to amend Regulation 1655/2000/EC concerning the Financial Instrument for the Environment (LIFE). PROPOSED ACT : Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council. CONTENT : in view of the mid-term evaluation results and recommendations (COD/1998

/0336) and in line with the new policy context there is a need to extend the existing instrument. This will ensure continuity until a new approach is developed in view of the new post-2006 financial perspectives. An extension of the existing Regulation should avoid a legal gap between the end of the LIFE III phase on 31 December 2004 and the introduction of the new financial perspectives. The extension should therefore cover 2 years until 31 December 2006. In addition the extension should include the following modifications to the existing Regulation: - the Regulation should be fully aligned to the provisions of the new Financial Regulation; - considering that the 6th Environment Action Program has been adopted in 2002, the guidelines that define the priority areas for Life-Environment demonstration projects will be revised to clearly link them with the priorities set in the Program and the actions to be proposed in the EU Environmental Technology Action Plan. ETAP which is currently under preparation; - the complementarity of Life with Research, Structural Fund and Rural Development Programmes needs to be properly reflected in the regulation; - the committee procedure to which the implementation measures of the Life Regulation are subject is modified to take account of the judgement issued by the Court of Justice in January 2003; - the proposed amount for a two year extension of Life amounts to 317.2 million Euro; this is coherent with the present financial perspectives and takes into consideration the effect of enlargement; - a limited increase is proposed for accompanying measures from 5 to 6% of the budget to allow for a further improvement in the dissemination and monitoring activities; - an ex-post evaluation of the LIFE programme is proposed in 2006; - a special scheme is introduced to allow for the continuation of monitoring activities of projects still active after 2006. The geographical scope of LIFE is not modified in the proposal for a two years extension of LIFE III. However, the participation of Ukraine, Moldova and Belarus should be considered afterwards. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS: - Budget line : B4-3200A : LIFE (Financial Instrument for the Environment - 2005 to 2010) - Projects on Community territory - Part I (nature protection) - Expenditure on administrative management; B4-3201A : LIFE (Financial Instrument for the Environment - 2005 to 2010) - Projects on Community territory - Part II (Environmental protection) - Expenditure on administrative Management; B7-810A LIFE (European Financial Instrument for the Environment - 2005 to 2010) - Operations outside Community territory - Expenditure on administrative management; B7-810 LIFE (European Financial Instrument for the Environment - 2005 to 2006) - Operations outside Community territory; B4-3200 LIFE (Financial Instrument for the Environment- 2005 to 2006) - Projects on Community territory - Part I (nature protection); B4-3201 LIFE III (Financial Instrument for the Environment - 2005 to 2006) - Projects on Community territory - Part II (environmental protection). - Total allocation for action : EUR 317, 165 million (financial intervention EUR 284, 882 million for commitment; technical and administrative assistance EUR 32, 283 million). - Period of allocation : 2005-2006.