


# Procedure file

Basic information		
CNS - Consultation procedure Decision	1997/0916(CNS)	Procedure completed
Fight against organized crime: exchanges, training and cooperation. 1998-2002 FALCONE programme		
Subject 7.30.30 Action to combat crime		

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	<b>LIBE</b> Civil Liberties and Internal Affairs		15/09/1997
		V <a href="#">ORLANDO Leoluca</a>	
	Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
	<b>BUDG</b> Budgets		
Council of the European Union	<b>JURI</b> Legal Affairs, Citizens' Rights		27/11/1997
		PPE <a href="#">NASSAUER Hartmut</a>	
	<b>CONT</b> Budgetary Control	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
	Council configuration	Meeting	Date
	<a href="#">Justice and Home Affairs (JHA)</a>	<a href="#">2075</a>	19/03/1998
	<a href="#">Justice and Home Affairs (JHA)</a>	<a href="#">2055</a>	04/12/1997

Key events			
20/10/1997	Legislative proposal published	COM(1997)0528	Summary
17/11/1997	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
04/12/1997	Debate in Council	<a href="#">2055</a>	
19/01/1998	Vote in committee		Summary
19/01/1998	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading	<a href="#">A4-0017/1998</a>	
17/02/1998	Debate in Parliament		
17/02/1998	Decision by Parliament	T4-0063/1998	Summary
19/03/1998	Act adopted by Council after consultation of Parliament		

19/03/1998	End of procedure in Parliament		
31/03/1998	Final act published in Official Journal		

### Technical information

Procedure reference	1997/0916(CNS)
Procedure type	CNS - Consultation procedure
Procedure subtype	Legislation
Legislative instrument	Decision
Legal basis	EC before Amsterdam E 000
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	LIBE/4/09500

### Documentation gateway

Legislative proposal		COM(1997)0528	20/10/1997	EC	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading		<a href="#">A4-0017/1998</a> <a href="#">OJ C 056 23.02.1998, p. 0003</a>	19/01/1998	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading		T4-0063/1998 <a href="#">OJ C 080 16.03.1998, p. 0016-0036</a>	17/02/1998	EP	Summary
Follow-up document		SEC(1999)1955	17/12/1999	EC	
Follow-up document		SEC(2001)0018	08/01/2001	EC	
Follow-up document		<a href="#">SEC(2003)0316</a>	14/03/2003	EC	
Follow-up document		<a href="#">SEC(2006)0333</a>	07/03/2006	EC	Summary

### Final act

Justice and Home Affairs act 1998/245  
[OJ L 099 31.03.1998, p. 0008-0012](#)

## Fight against organized crime: exchanges, training and cooperation. 1998-2002 FALCONE programme

OBJECTIVE: joint action establishing a programme of exchanges, training and cooperation for persons responsible for action to combat organized crime (Falcone programme). SUBSTANCE: the programme, to which a budget of ECU 10 m is assigned, will be established for the period 1997-2001 and will ensure the implementation of certain recommendations from the action plan to combat organized crime(see COS0548). The programme is aimed at those responsible for combating organized crime, i.e. judges, public prosecutors, police and customs departments, public tax authorities, authorities responsible for combating fraud and other representatives of professional circles who may be involved in the implementation of some of the recommendations in the action plan. The measures to be carried out will concern the following fields in particular: - training: improving mutual knowledge of regulations, etc, concerning the fight against organized crime and preparation of teaching modules for actions involving continuing training; - operational cooperation projects concerning combating organized crime: coordinated measures involving several Member States and one or more categories of persons responsible (customs officials, judges, etc) designed to improve skills and operational methods of combating organized crime (e.g. joint surveillance operations, etc.). Specific expert missions in the framework of the implementation of the procedure for the mutual assessment of national provisions relating to the fight against organized crime may also be financed (CNS97912); - visits to and seminars at the premises of specialized public bodies; - research and specialized studies: particularly comparison and evaluation of instruments directly or indirectly applicable to the fight against organized crime, new legislative initiatives or feasibility of pilot projects; - exchange of information between those responsible for combating organized crime: assistance in establishing networks of contact points between judicial or other authorities, development of databases or telematics networks incorporating legislation with a bearing on the fight against organized crime. In order to avoid duplication of effort, if a measure is financed under the Falcone programme no funding may be provided from other Justice and Internal Affairs sections of the Union budget or other Community programmes. Projects must involve at least two Member States in order to be eligible for Community support, which must not exceed 80% of the total cost of the measure. The applicant countries may participate in the programme, as may other third countries. The

Commission will be responsible for the administration of the programme (including its financial aspects) and for drawing up the annual programme for the joint action. It will be assisted by a committee consisting of representatives of the Member States. A procedure is laid down which the Commission is to use in assessing projects. The European Parliament and Council are to be informed annually of the results of the projects financed. ?

## Fight against organized crime: exchanges, training and cooperation. 1998-2002 FALCONE programme

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The Committee adopted as amended a draft report tabled by Leoluca ORLANDO (Greens, I) on a joint action establishing a programme of exchanges, training and cooperation for people responsible for combatting organized crime (Falcone programme). The committee said that care needed to be taken to ensure that training was given sufficient financial resource value to achieve the objectives. This led the committee to adopt several amendments to the original text, stressing the need to ensure that co-financing of operations under the programme complements the funding intended for other Title VI programmes under the EU Treaty and other Community financing programmes, including those under the First Pillar. Community programmes specifically aimed at supporting the efforts of applicant countries for accession to the EU should, however, be excluded. At the same time, financial support from the Community budget must not exceed 60% of the cost of a project. The programme, established for a five-year period from 1998 to 2002, is aimed at people such as judges, public prosecutors, police customs departments and authorities responsible for the supervision of financial establishments and public procurement. The original proposal was amended to include additional categories and professions. ?

## Fight against organized crime: exchanges, training and cooperation. 1998-2002 FALCONE programme

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Adopting the report by Mr Leoluca Orlando (V, I), Parliament approved the Falcone programme with the following amendments: - apart from the current beneficiaries of the proposed measures under the joint action (judges, prosecutors, police and customs departments and civil servants), Parliament has added 'other persons with responsibility for the fight against organized crime': those responsible for a society's cultural climate, such as teachers or university professors, NGO officials and representatives of certain sensitive professions such as lawyers, accountants or auditors; - Parliament has also amended the list of planned measures in the programme and deleted the financing of meetings and conferences (preferring to keep to the organization of training courses and seminars); - with regard to Community financial support, Parliament calls for the financial contribution from the Community not to exceed 60% of the cost of the project, except for measures for applicant countries where the rate should not exceed 80%; - with regard to access to funding, Parliament calls for a project to be financed if three Member States or two Member States and one applicant country are participating, with a view to familiarizing future EU members with the Community acquis in this area. In parallel, Parliament urges that funding granted under the joint action should cover tasks specifically connected with the joint implementation of the project. It also amends the co-financing threshold above which the Commission must inform the Falcone programme committee (ECU 200 000 instead of the current ECU 50 000) and changes parts of the proposal concerned with decision-making. Finally, Parliament asks to be informed of the annual programme adopted in application of the joint measures and that its opinion be duly taken into account in drawing up this programme. ?