


# Procedure file

Basic information		
INI - Own-initiative procedure	<a href="#">1998/2139(INI)</a>	Procedure completed
Repercussions in the case of the MED programmes		
Subject 6.40.05 Relations with the Mediterranean and southern European countries		

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	<b>CONT</b> Budgetary Control	PPE <a href="#">FABRA VALLÉS Juan Manuel</a>	22/04/1998

Key events			
19/06/1998	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
29/10/1998	Vote in committee		Summary
29/10/1998	Committee report tabled for plenary	<a href="#">A4-0404/1998</a>	
16/11/1998	Debate in Parliament		
17/11/1998	Decision by Parliament	T4-0652/1998	Summary
17/11/1998	End of procedure in Parliament		
07/12/1998	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	1998/2139(INI)
Procedure type	INI - Own-initiative procedure
Procedure subtype	Initiative
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 54
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	CONT/4/10245

Documentation gateway				
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		<a href="#">A4-0404/1998</a> <a href="#">OJ C 379 07.12.1998, p. 0005</a>	29/10/1998	EP

Text adopted by Parliament, single reading	T4-0652/1998 <a href="#">OJ C 379 07.12.1998, p. 0018-0040</a>	17/11/1998	EP	Summary
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## Repercussions in the case of the MED programmes

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The Committee adopted (with one vote against and one abstention) the report by Juan Manuel FABRA VALLES (EPP, E) on the repercussions of the MED programme affair. This issue was one of the factors which led Parliament to defer granting the discharge to the Commission on March 31st. The MED programmes are the decentralised cooperation programmes with the Mediterranean countries which ran up to 1996. In the implementation of these programmes, incorrectly made payments have been identified to the value of ECU 10 million over the period 1993-96. The committee has reaffirmed its position to the effect that it is up to national judicial authorities to decide on any criminal sanctions. The report calls on the Commission for the third and final time to forward the entire MED file, including the new additional facts on irregularities, to the Belgian, French and Italian authorities by 1st December 1998. Should the Commission fail to respond to this demand, the committee proposes that Parliament consider whether to forward all the documents in its possession relating to this matter to the judicial authorities and to bring an action against the Commission for failure to act, pursuant to Article 175 of the Treaty. The committee believes the Commission has undermined its own credibility on the disciplinary front and calls on it to face up to its responsibilities. ?

## Repercussions in the case of the MED programmes

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The repercussions of the affair of the MED programmes caused Parliament on 31 March 1998 to postpone the discharge to the Commission for the 1996 financial year. These programmes were decentralised cooperation programmes with the Mediterranean countries up to 1996. In the implementation of these programmes wrongful payments amounting to at least ECU 10 million were established (for the period 1993-1996). In adopting the report by Mr Juan FABRE VALLÉS (EPP, E) Parliament reasserted its view that it was for the national judicial authorities to decide on any criminal proceedings. It therefore called on the Commission, for the third and last time, to forward the entire file, including new additional evidence of serious irregularities, on the MED affair to the judicial authorities in Belgium, France and Italy before 1 December 1998. Should the Commission fail to respond to this request, Parliament proposed examining the possibility of forwarding to the judicial authorities everything in the file at its disposal and, in the framework of the discharge procedure for 1996, of bringing proceedings against the Commission (pursuant to Article 175 of the Treaty). Parliament was convinced that the Commission had damaged its own credibility in disciplinary proceedings and expected it to assume full responsibility. The Commission was called on to exclude from new decentralised cooperation programmes with Mediterranean countries any operators who in the past had failed to honour their co-financing obligations. It was also called on to recover in full all the amounts incorrectly paid. ?