

Procedure file

| Basic information | | |
|---|--------------------------------|---------------------|
| SYN - Cooperation procedure (historic) | 1998/0220(SYN) | Procedure completed |
| West Bank and Gaza Strip: financial and technical cooperation (amend. Regulation (EC) No 1734/94) | | |
| Subject 6.30.02 Financial and technical cooperation and assistance | | |
| Geographical area Palestine | | |

| Key players | | | |
|-------------------------------|--|--|------------|
| European Parliament | Committee responsible | Rapporteur | Appointed |
| | BUDG Budgets | | 19/01/1998 |
| | | PSE TOMLINSON The Lord John E. | |
| | Former committee responsible | | 19/01/1998 |
| | BUDG Budgets | | |
| | | PSE TOMLINSON The Lord John E. | |
| | Former committee for opinion | | |
| | AFET Foreign Affairs, Security and Defense Policy | | |
| Council of the European Union | Council configuration | Meeting | Date |
| | Environment | 2153 | 21/12/1998 |
| | Research | 2123 | 13/10/1998 |

| Key events | | | |
|------------|---|------------------------------|---------|
| 18/06/1998 | Committee referral announced in Parliament | | |
| 26/06/1998 | Legislative proposal published | COM(1998)0392 | Summary |
| 01/09/1998 | Vote in committee | | Summary |
| 01/09/1998 | Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading | A4-0300/1998 | |
| 16/09/1998 | Decision by Parliament | T4-0471/1998 | Summary |
| 13/10/1998 | Council position published | 11566/1/1998 | Summary |
| 19/11/1998 | Committee referral announced in Parliament, 2nd reading | | |
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|------------|--|------------------------------|---------|
| 24/11/1998 | Vote in committee, 2nd reading | | Summary |
| 24/11/1998 | Committee recommendation tabled for plenary, 2nd reading | A4-0436/1998 | |
| 03/12/1998 | Decision by Parliament, 2nd reading | T4-0704/1998 | Summary |
| 21/12/1998 | Act adopted by Council after consultation of Parliament | | |
| 21/12/1998 | End of procedure in Parliament | | |
| 30/12/1998 | Final act published in Official Journal | | |

Technical information

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| Procedure reference | 1998/0220(SYN) |
| Procedure type | SYN - Cooperation procedure (historic) |
| Procedure subtype | Legislation |
| Legal basis | EC before Amsterdam E 130W |
| Stage reached in procedure | Procedure completed |
| Committee dossier | BUDG/4/10489 |

Documentation gateway

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|---|---|------------|-----|---------|
| Legislative proposal | COM(1998)0392 OJ C 235 12.08.1998, p. 0015 | 26/06/1998 | EC | Summary |
| Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading | A4-0300/1998 OJ C 313 12.10.1998, p. 0008 | 01/09/1998 | EP | |
| Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading | T4-0471/1998 OJ C 313 12.10.1998, p. 0048-0066 | 16/09/1998 | EP | Summary |
| Council position | 11566/1/1998 OJ C 388 14.12.1998, p. 0007 | 13/10/1998 | CSL | Summary |
| Commission communication on Council's position | SEC(1998)1961 | 18/11/1998 | EC | Summary |
| Committee recommendation tabled for plenary, 2nd reading | A4-0436/1998 OJ C 398 21.12.1998, p. 0004 | 24/11/1998 | EP | |
| Text adopted by Parliament, 2nd reading | T4-0704/1998 OJ C 398 21.12.1998, p. 0017-0034 | 03/12/1998 | EP | Summary |
| Follow-up document | SEC(1999)0408 | 10/03/1999 | EC | |

Additional information

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| European Commission | EUR-Lex |
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Final act

[Regulation 1998/2840](#)
[OJ L 354 30.12.1998, p. 0014](#) Summary

OBJECTIVE: to renew Community assistance to the Middle East peace process. SUBSTANCE: On the basis of the conclusions of the Commission communication on the 'role of the European Union in the peace process and its future assistance to the Middle East' (COS0677), the Commission proposes continuing aid to the occupied territories of Gaza and the West Bank until 2006, although the current programme expires at the end of 1998. To this end, the current regulation 1734/94/EC will be amended in order to: - launch a new eight-year programme 1999-2006, - review the regulation within two years (not later than 31 December 2000) to assess whether the Palestinian Authority fulfils the requirements of sound management, fiscal balance and consolidation of its institutions, - to bring the regulation into line with the MEDA regulation (Regulation 1488/96/EC) on financial and technical measures to accompany the reform of economic and social structures in the framework of the Euro-Mediterranean partnership, - to speed up the decision-making process under this regulation and to this end to include a clause bringing the current provisions into line with those in Regulation 1488/96/EC with regard to comitology (comitology procedure will be used only for decisions on finance above ECU 2 m other than those concerning interest rate subsidies for EIB loans). The proposal also takes the opportunity to amend the text to replace the phrase 'occupied territories' by 'the West Bank and the Gaza Strip'. ?

West Bank and Gaza Strip: financial and technical cooperation (amend. Regulation (EC) No 1734/94)

The Committee has adopted the supplementary report by John TOMLINSON (PES, UK) on a proposal to amend the 1994 regulation on financial and technical cooperation with the Occupied Territories. On June 18th 1998, the House referred the first report on this matter back to the Budgets Committee, as the Commission, while saying it sympathised with the amendments adopted by Parliament, was unable to accept them at the time for "legal and institutional" reasons. The Commission then submitted a fresh text which to some degree takes account of Parliament's position. However, the rapporteur has retabled compromise amendments covering the points which the Commission's new proposal did not take up. These amendments relate to the prolongation of the cooperation programme after 1999, with an envisaged level of funding in line with the new financial perspective. The annual amount provided under the programme would be decided by the budgetary authority. The Commission is asked to present in the course of 1999 a consolidated text to continue the programme from the year 2000 onwards. Other amendments deal with comitology and the question of keeping the budgetary authority regularly informed.?

West Bank and Gaza Strip: financial and technical cooperation (amend. Regulation (EC) No 1734/94)

The European Parliament adopted the report by Mr John TOMLINSON (PSE, UK) on financial and technical cooperation with the Occupied Territories. It amended several points of the basic text proposed by the Commission, in line with another proposal on the same subject which also seeks to amend Regulation 1734/94/EC (SYN97316). The amendments refer to the following points: - limitation of the planned programme to five years from 1999 to 2003 (rather than the 8 years proposed by the Commission), corresponding to the next financial perspective. If new financial perspectives are adopted for the period after 2000, the amount for this cooperation will be determined in accordance with the new financial perspectives under the annual budgetary procedure; - correct information for the budgetary authority on funding decisions of less than ECU 2 million; - a number of technical procedures for applying the regulation (mainly comitology). Parliament's legislative resolution also stipulates that (in accordance with Article 138 B, para.2 of the Treaty on European Union) the Commission must present a new legislative text on this matter by 31 December 1999, consolidating the proposals adopted to date and covering the period commencing in the year 2000.?

West Bank and Gaza Strip: financial and technical cooperation (amend. Regulation (EC) No 1734/94)

In its common position on the proposal for a Regulation on financial and technical cooperation with the Occupied Territories, the Council has taken over all the aspects agreed by the European Parliament and the Commission in plenary on 16 September 1998, in particular: - the period for which financial assistance is to be renewed is for five years (1999 to 2003), - the reference to Council Decision No 97/256/EC granting a Community guarantee for EIB loans, - the reference to the new financial perspectives (2000-2006) and the budgetary authority. The Council did not, however, consider it useful to include in its common position the amendments associated with comitology (in particular informing the budgetary authority of financing decisions). The Council also included a new paragraph seeking to include in the clause on revision of the regulation (provision for review after two years of implementation - at the latest by 31 December 2000) a broader reference to the evaluation. ?

West Bank and Gaza Strip: financial and technical cooperation (amend. Regulation (EC) No 1734/94)

In its opinion on the Council's common position on financial and technical cooperation with the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, the Commission was in full agreement with the Council text. With regard to the amendments of the European Parliament on comitology which were not taken up by the Council, the Commission considers (with the Council) that interinstitutional discussions will be necessary to modify the committee procedures. It also agreed with the strengthening of the evaluation proposed by the Commission in its common position. ?

West Bank and Gaza Strip: financial and technical cooperation (amend. Regulation (EC) No 1734/94)

The Committee adopted the report by Lord TOMLINSON (PES, UK) with a view to the 2nd reading by Parliament, which will take place in the plenary without debate. The report proposes that the two common positions of the Council be approved, as the Council has taken on board nearly all the priorities Parliament set out at 1st reading. As the Council did not accept the amendments on comitology, the rapporteur proposes that the approval of the two common positions be accompanied by a statement, to be made in plenary, with a view to safeguarding Parliament's position on this matter. Lastly, in its legislative decisions, just as at 1st reading, Parliament asks the Commission to submit by 31st December 1999 a new single consolidated legislative text to enable the programme to continue after the year 2000.

West Bank and Gaza Strip: financial and technical cooperation (amend. Regulation (EC) No 1734/94)

Parliament adopted without debate the recommendation for second reading by Lord Tomlinson (PSE, UK) which proposes approval of the common position of the Council as the latter had taken into account almost all of the priorities put forward by Parliament at first reading. As the amendments on comitology were not included by the Council, the report's approval of the common position included a statement in plenary safeguarding Parliament's position on this subject. Lastly, Parliament repeated the request to the Commission to submit before 31 December 1999 a new single consolidated legislative text for the continuation of this programme from the year 2000 onwards. ?

West Bank and Gaza Strip: financial and technical cooperation (amend. Regulation (EC) No 1734/94)

OBJECTIVE: to extend Community financial and technical assistance to the West Bank and the Gaza Strip to 31 December 2003.
COMMUNITY MEASURE: Council Regulation (EC) No 2840/98 amending Regulation 1734/98/EC on financial and technical cooperation with the Occupied Territories. CONTENT: The amending regulation seeks to renew assistance to the Occupied Territories of the Gaza Strip and the West Bank currently granted under Regulation 1734/94/EC to 31 December 2003 (the current programme expires at the end of 1998). However, it has been decided that, if new financial perspectives are adopted for the period after the year 2000, the amount of cooperation will be determined in accordance with the new financial perspectives under the annual budgetary procedure. The amending regulation also makes provision to: - review Regulation 1734/94/EC within two years (by 31 December 2000) in order to take account of recent developments and bring the regulation into line with the MEDA regulation (Regulation 1488/96/EC) on financial and technical measures to accompany the reform of economic and social structures in the framework of the Euro-Mediterranean partnership; - speed up the decision-making process under this regulation and, to this end, to include a clause bringing the current provisions with regard to comitology into line with those of Regulation 1488/96/EC (the comitology procedure will only be used for decisions on finance above ECU 2 million other than those concerning interest rate subsidies for EIB loans). The regulation also provides the opportunity to make editorial changes in order to replace the term "Occupied Territories" by the terms "West Bank and Gaza Strip" throughout the initial text. Finally, provision has been made for the Community guarantee on EIB loans for projects outside the Community to cover this region until the year 2000. ENTRY INTO FORCE: 2 January 1999.?