

# Procedure file

Basic information	
CNS - Consultation procedure Regulation	1999/0214(CNS) Procedure completed
MEDA programme, Euro-Mediterranean partnership: economic and social structures Amending Regulation (EC) No 1488/96 <a href="#">1995/0127(CNS)</a>	
Subject 6.30.02 Financial and technical cooperation and assistance 6.40.05 Relations with the Mediterranean and southern European countries	
Geographical area Mediterranean Sea area	

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	<b>ITRE</b> Industry, External Trade, Research, Energy		27/01/2000
		PPE-DE <a href="#">VALDIVIELSO DE CUÉ Jaime</a>	
	Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
	<b>AFET</b> Foreign Affairs, Human Rights, Common Security, Defense		25/01/2000
		PSE <a href="#">NAÏR Sami</a>	
	<b>BUDG</b> Budgets		19/04/2000
		V/ALE <a href="#">BUITENWEG Kathalijne Maria</a>	
	<b>CONT</b> Budgetary Control		23/02/2000
		PPE-DE <a href="#">COSTA Raffaele</a>	
Council of the European Union	Council configuration	Meeting	Date
	<a href="#">Economic and Financial Affairs ECOFIN</a>	<a href="#">2312</a>	27/11/2000
	<a href="#">General Affairs</a>	<a href="#">2294</a>	09/10/2000
	<a href="#">General Affairs</a>	<a href="#">2286</a>	18/09/2000
European Commission	Commission DG Development	Commissioner	

Key events			
20/10/1999	Legislative proposal published	COM(1999)0494	Summary
21/01/2000	Committee referral announced in Parliament		

12/07/2000	Vote in committee		Summary
12/07/2000	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading	<a href="#">A5-0204/2000</a>	
04/09/2000	Debate in Parliament		
06/09/2000	Decision by Parliament	<a href="#">T5-0359/2000</a>	Summary
18/09/2000	Debate in Council	<a href="#">2286</a>	Summary
09/10/2000	Debate in Council	<a href="#">2294</a>	
27/11/2000	Act adopted by Council after consultation of Parliament		
27/11/2000	End of procedure in Parliament		
12/12/2000	Final act published in Official Journal		

### Technical information

Procedure reference	1999/0214(CNS)
Procedure type	CNS - Consultation procedure
Procedure subtype	Legislation
Legislative instrument	Regulation
	Amending Regulation (EC) No 1488/96 <a href="#">1995/0127(CNS)</a>
Legal basis	EC Treaty (after Amsterdam) EC 308
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	ITRE/5/12405

### Documentation gateway

Legislative proposal	<a href="#">COM(1999)0494</a> <a href="#">OJ C 089 28.03.2000, p. 0004</a>	20/10/1999	EC	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading	<a href="#">A5-0204/2000</a> <a href="#">OJ C 135 07.05.2001, p. 0011</a>	12/07/2000	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading	<a href="#">T5-0359/2000</a> <a href="#">OJ C 135 07.05.2001, p. 0079-0159</a>	06/09/2000	EP	Summary

### Additional information

European Commission	<a href="#">EUR-Lex</a>
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### Final act

<a href="#">Regulation 2000/2698</a> <a href="#">OJ L 311 12.12.2000, p. 0001</a> Summary
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## MEDA programme, Euro-Mediterranean partnership: economic and social structures

PURPOSE : to amend the Regulation 1488/96/EC on financial and technical measures relating to the Euro-Mediterranean partnership (MEDA). CONTENT : The existing regulation requires the Commission to submit an evaluation on the implementation of MEDA. An external evaluator did so in 1998, and that report is attached as an appendix to this document. In the light of the evaluation, these proposals have the

overall objective of simplifying the implementation of MEDA. A three-pronged strategy is proposed to improve the effectiveness of the MEDA Regulation: - Streamlining the decision-making process in order to achieve more effective programming. This streamlining focuses on MED Committee involvement on strategic planning and programming. The external evaluator questions the appropriateness of the double examination by the Committee of policy implementation. The proposal is expected to reduce the time of project preparation by an average of three months. National and regional financing plans (NFP/RFP) will be adopted annually on the basis of clearly expressed indicative programmes. The Commission will adopt financing decisions within the annual budget on the basis of the NFP or RFP approved by the MED Committee. The later will be informed promptly of the Commission decision. - Enhancing capacities for programming and implementation. The strategies to this end are described but do not require amendments to the MEDA Regulation. - Shortening procedures for more effective implementation, which could help increase the present financial commitment/disbursement ratio. The Commission services are currently developing harmonised procedures. This, too, implies time gains in project preparation. The Mediterranean Directorate in the Commission's Relex DG (External Relations) does not have sufficient human resources. It is advisable to strengthen the Directorate by 25 posts. A breakdown is given in the document.?

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## MEDA programme, Euro-Mediterranean partnership: economic and social structures

The committee adopted a report under the consultation procedure by Jaime VALDIVIELSO DE CUE (EPP/ED, E) approving, with a number of amendments, a Commission proposal to amend Regulation 1488/96 on financial and technical measures to accompany the MEDA programme. The Commission's document was based on the findings of an assessment of the programme carried out in 1998 and its overall objective was to simplify implementation of MEDA. The committee welcomed the proposal, but wished to introduce measures to strengthen cooperation between the Union and the Member States and to enhance the transparency of budgetary decisions of the Commission. It further wanted Parliament to be kept better informed, with increased opportunity for democratic scrutiny. ?

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## MEDA programme, Euro-Mediterranean partnership: economic and social structures

The European Parliament adopted, under the consultation procedure, the report drafted by Mr Jaime VALDIVIELSO DE CUE (EPP/ED, E) in which it calls for accelerated and simplified implementation of the MEDA programme - the main financial instrument for the Community's Mediterranean policy. This text was subject to numerous amendments which aim at achieving greater efficiency of the programme by revising the provisions concerning financing, co-operation and transparency. The European Parliament calls for the strengthening of regional cooperation through the allocation of greater resources and increased political and technical support, beginning with certain areas which are already consolidated, such as the Maghreb countries. Furthermore, it is imperative that the new MEDA regulation should guarantee balanced and sustainable political, economic and social development and respect for the environment while involving civil society in the framing and evaluation of programmes and projects. The importance of 'small-scale projects' must be taken into account in this respect. With regard to the reference amount for the implementation of this programme, for the period 2000 to 2006 it shall be at least equal in real terms to the amount allocated in the preceding period. Within the annual budget, 85% shall be earmarked for cooperation between the Community and partner countries; 15% of the annual budget shall be earmarked for regional between the Community and at least two Mediterranean countries. In cooperation with the partner countries, the Commission shall ensure that supplies imported into the partner country in implementation of a project funded by the Community are not subject to customs duties. In addition, several amendments are intended to promote environmental measures. If projects violate internationally recognised environmental standards, the Commission and the European Investment Bank may suspend and lower their payments. An overall and gradual improvement of the Commission's management is also sought. Moreover, the Parliament wishes to strengthen cooperation between the Union and the Member States and boost its own democratic control and scrutiny over the programme.?

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## MEDA programme, Euro-Mediterranean partnership: economic and social structures

On the basis of a Presidency compromise, the Council examined the main items still pending for the revisions of the MEDA II Regulation and reached solutions on the following items: - abandoning a threshold for the examination of individual projects in return for a "power of retrieval" for Member States on all aspects of an annual financing plan, - direct budget aid concerning Structural Adjustment Facilities; - the transmission by the Commission to the Member States financing conventions for information before their signatures; - the inclusion of a multiannual reference amount (still to be fixed); - the need for an opinion from the MED Committee on strategy documents; - the improvement of on-the-spot coordination between the Commission and the Member States; - the principle of an annual meeting of the MED Committee to discuss implementation of the Structural Adjustment Facilities; - an agreement in principle on a mechanism for release of dormant commitments ("sunset clause") that the Commission undertook to apply to all external aid programmes as of the 2001 budget; - a future examination in the more general context of the effectiveness of the Union's external aid of the possibility of entrusting the execution of certain projects to national agencies.?

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## MEDA programme, Euro-Mediterranean partnership: economic and social structures

PURPOSE: to establish the second phase of the MEDA programme. COMMUNITY MEASURE: Council Regulation 2698/2000/EC, amending 1488/96/EC on financial and technical measures to accompany (MEDA) the reform of economic and social structures in the framework of the Euro-Mediterranean partnership. CONTENT: this regulation seeks to put in place the second phase of the MEDA programme, with a budget of MEUR 5350 for the period 2000-2006. For the most part, the objectives of the programme are similar to those in the first MEDA programme. However, increased priority is given to the reform of economic and social structures in the countries concerned, to the improvement of the standard of living of the underprivileged classes as well as a reduction in the negative consequences of economic development on both society and the environment. Special emphasis is given to ongoing development and regional cooperation in the context of these countries integration into the global economy. The objectives and the functioning of support measures are described in detail in the annex of the modified regulation. The new MEDA II regulation seek substantial technical modification of Regulation 1488/96/EC with a view to rationalising and simplifying the decision-making procedures in order to achieve more effectiveness in the programming of projects. In particular, the

modifications seek to define more clearly the expected impact of the operations financed by MEDA through strategy documents, tri-annual national and regional indicative programmes, taking into account the priorities agreed with the Mediterranean partners. Furthermore, the regulation seeks to reinforce the implementation of MEDA projects which could possibly involve the decentralisation of their management to national structures. With regard to the committee structure, there have been changes to the initial text concerning the simplification of procedures. This foresees consultation of the MEDA committee in relation to strategy documents and the annual report on Facilities for structural adjustment. The simplified procedures shall also apply to financial decisions. Every three years, the Commission shall produce an overall evaluation report of the assistance already provided to the Mediterranean partners, including the effectiveness of the programmes and the review of the strategy papers. The Council will review this Regulation before 30.06.2006. To that end, the Commission shall submit before 31.12.2005 an evaluation report accompanied by proposals regarding the future of this Regulation and, if necessary, the amendments to be made to it. ENTRY INTO FORCE: 15.12.2000. ?