

Procedure file

Basic information	
COD - Ordinary legislative procedure (ex-codecision procedure) Regulation	1999/0020(COD) Procedure completed
Developing countries: integrate the environment in the development process, sustainable development	
Repealed by 2004/0220(COD)	
Subject 3.70 Environmental policy 3.70.20 Sustainable development 6.30 Development cooperation	

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	DELE EP Delegation to Conciliation Committee		18/05/2000
		PPE-DE WIJKMAN Anders	
	Former committee responsible		
	DEVE Development and Cooperation		18/02/1999
		PSE VAN PUTTEN Maartje J.A.	
	DEVE Development and Cooperation		27/07/1999
		PPE-DE WIJKMAN Anders	
	Former committee for opinion		
BUDG Budgets			17/02/1999
		PPE PIMENTA Carlos	
	ENVI Environment, Public Health, Consumer Policy	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
Council of the European Union	Council configuration	Meeting	Date
	Development	2263	18/05/2000
	Fisheries	2237	16/12/1999
	Development	2215	11/11/1999
European Commission	Commission DG	Commissioner	
	Development		

Key events			
28/01/1999	Legislative proposal published	COM(1999)0036	Summary
21/04/1999	Vote in committee, 1st reading		

21/04/1999	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading	A4-0254/1999	
05/05/1999	Decision by Parliament, 1st reading	T4-0398/1999	Summary
11/11/1999	Resolution/conclusions adopted by Council		
16/12/1999	Council position published	12485/1/1999	Summary
20/01/2000	Committee referral announced in Parliament, 2nd reading		
02/02/2000	Modified legislative proposal published	COM(2000)0055	Summary
22/02/2000	Vote in committee, 2nd reading		Summary
22/02/2000	Committee recommendation tabled for plenary, 2nd reading	A5-0051/2000	
13/03/2000	Debate in Parliament		
15/03/2000	Decision by Parliament, 2nd reading	T5-0097/2000	Summary
18/05/2000	Parliament's amendments rejected by Council		
28/06/2000	Formal meeting of Conciliation Committee		Summary
28/06/2000	Final decision by Conciliation Committee		
05/07/2000	Joint text approved by Conciliation Committee co-chairs	3631/2000	
21/08/2000	Report tabled for plenary, 3rd reading	A5-0215/2000	
04/09/2000	Committee referral announced in Parliament, 1st reading		
07/09/2000	Decision by Council, 3rd reading		
20/09/2000	Debate in Parliament		
21/09/2000	Decision by Parliament, 3rd reading	T5-0395/2000	Summary
07/11/2000	Final act signed		
07/11/2000	End of procedure in Parliament		
15/11/2000	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	1999/0020(COD)
Procedure type	COD - Ordinary legislative procedure (ex-codecision procedure)
Procedure subtype	Legislation
Legislative instrument	Regulation
	Repealed by 2004/0220(COD)
Legal basis	EC Treaty (after Amsterdam) EC 179; EC Treaty (after Amsterdam) EC 175
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	CODE/5/12791

Documentation gateway					
Legislative proposal		COM(1999)0036 OJ C 047 20.02.1999, p. 0010	28/01/1999	EC	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading		A4-0254/1999 OJ C 279 01.10.1999, p. 0008	21/04/1999	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading		T4-0398/1999 OJ C 279 01.10.1999, p. 0162-0183	05/05/1999	EP	Summary
Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report		CES0702/1999 OJ C 258 10.09.1999, p. 0016	07/07/1999	ESC	
Council position		12485/1/1999 OJ C 064 06.03.2000, p. 0047	16/12/1999	CSL	Summary
Commission communication on Council's position		SEC(2000)0068	17/01/2000	EC	Summary
Modified legislative proposal		COM(2000)0055 OJ C 274 26.09.2000, p. 0001 E	02/02/2000	EC	Summary
Committee recommendation tabled for plenary, 2nd reading		A5-0051/2000 OJ C 377 29.12.2000, p. 0006	22/02/2000	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, 2nd reading		T5-0097/2000 OJ C 377 29.12.2000, p. 0021-0143	15/03/2000	EP	Summary
Commission opinion on Parliament's position at 2nd reading		COM(2000)0310	25/05/2000	EC	Summary
Joint text approved by Conciliation Committee co-chairs		3631/2000	05/07/2000	CSL/EP	
Report tabled for plenary by Parliament delegation to Conciliation Committee, 3rd reading		A5-0215/2000 OJ C 135 07.05.2001, p. 0014	21/08/2000	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, 3rd reading		T5-0395/2000 OJ C 146 17.05.2001, p. 0017-0076	21/09/2000	EP	Summary
Document attached to the procedure		COM(2004)0394	01/06/2004	EC	Summary

Additional information

European Commission	EUR-Lex
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Final act

[Regulation 2000/2493](#)
[OJ L 288 15.11.2000, p. 0001](#) Summary

Developing countries: integrate the environment in the development process, sustainable development

PURPOSE: to introduce measures to promote the full integration of the environmental dimension in the development process of developing countries. **CONTENT:** this proposal for a Council Regulation aims to ensure the continuation of activities implemented under Council regulation 722/97/EC after the expiry of this regulation on 31/12/99. The proposed regulation sets the framework for the management of budgetline B7-6200, the most specific financial instrument available to the EC in the context of helping to implement environmental mainstreaming in the context of the activities funded by other (namely geographical) Community instruments in development cooperation. This

instrument has evolved to finance essentially two types of activities: - pilot schemes in developing countries; - the development of guidelines and operational instruments; The financial aid and technical assistance provided will elaborate and promote policies, strategies, tools and technologies for the pursuit of sustainable development. These actions will include pilot projects in the field, schemes to build up the institutional and operational capacities of actors in the development process, the elaboration of policies, plans and strategies for sustainable development, inventory, accounting and statistical work, environmental assessments, raising awareness of local populations and support to multilateral processes. Financed actions will address a large range of issues related to the environment, such as: - global environmental issues; - transboundary environmental issues (in particular, air and water pollution); - environmental impacts of integrating developing countries into the world economy; - environmental impacts of macro-economic and sectoral policies in developing countries; - sustainable management and use of natural and environmental resources in all productive sectors of the economy; - conservation of biological diversity; - water-related issues; - coastal zone management; - desertification; - urban environment problems; - sustainable production and use of energy; - sustainable patterns of production and consumption. Within the framework of this programme, the Commission considers lesson-learning and dissemination of the results of activities carried out to be essential elements of implementing this regulation. Particular attention will be given to such factors as linkage with the overall objective of poverty alleviation and innovative local initiatives. Finally, measures will be taken to ensure the visibility of Community actions. Since environmental mainstreaming is a long-term commitment, it is suggested that the regulation be given an unlimited duration. The Commission will be responsible for management of the programme. It will be assisted in this task by the geographically-determined Committee competent for development. Decisions relating to grants of more than EURO 2 million for individual operations shall be adopted under a committee procedure described in the regulation. 4 years after the regulation's entry into force, the Commission shall submit to the European Parliament and the Council an overall assessment of the operations financed by the Community under this regulation, together with suggestions concerning its future. The Commission shall also regularly assess operations with a view to providing guidelines for improving the effectiveness of future operations. The new regulation should be adopted as soon as possible in order to be applicable from 01/01/2000. It should finally be noted that the proposal's financial statement sets the budget of this initiative at EURO 16 million for 1999.?

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Without debate, the Parliament adopted the report drafted by Ms. Maartje VAN PUTTEN (PES, NL) on measures to promote full integration of the environmental dimension in the development process of developing countries. The Parliament considers that the basic strategy of the programme is to achieve full integration of environmental policy in other policies, including development policy and that there is a need for further and still more progressive objectives and measures beyond the year 2000 to maintain the momentum of Community action. It calls on the Commission to come forward with appropriate proposals to give effect to the programme's objectives and recalls that the need to integrate environmental considerations into Community policy and action should be translated into more operational terms. It also gives a new title to the proposal that gives greater emphasis to the 'integration of the environmental dimension' in the external policies of the Community and in the development process in developing countries. For the Parliament, this policy should be implemented in accordance with the European Parliament and Council Decision no. 2179/98/EC establishing a revised European Community programme of policy and action in relation to the environment and sustainable development 'Towards Sustainability' and should comprise two components : 1) a strategy of integrating environment policy in the Community's development policy and in other policies which have an impact on development and environment policies, and 2) measures to promote the full integration of environmental policy in the development process of developing countries. These components shall be complementary and shall be pursued by the Commission in parallel, with the aim of ensuring that the Community as far as possible sets an example of best practice to developing countries. Bearing in mind these priorities and the importance of the environment for the development of the countries concerned, the Parliament considers that the financial amount indicated in the proposal should be considered as an absolute minimum to meet the objectives of the Regulation (given that this amount covers technical and administrative assistance required for the implementation of the project). It also stresses the importance that all the financial and political measures be co-ordinated. In parallel, the Parliament clarifies the meaning of 'sustainable development' and strengthens the scope of actions to be undertaken. It proposes that the programme should cover, among other things : - transboundary environmental issues, in particular air, soil and water pollution, - the inclusion in development co-operation projects of an environmental component which distinguishes, identifies and assesses the sustainable dimension of these projects, - sustainable management and use of natural and environmental resources in all sectors and in particular the productive sectors of the economy, - environmental problems caused by the non-sustainable use of resources due to poverty, - conservation of biological diversity (especially by protecting ecosystems and habitats and the conservation of species diversity, the sustainable use of its components, the involvement of holders of traditional knowledge on the use of biological diversity, and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilisation of genetic resources), - the management of wetlands, - environmental impacts of non-sustainable forms of agriculture and the promotion of sustainable forms of agriculture, - town and country planning (especially with respect to the urban environment), - environmental problems related to industrial activities, - encouragement of the use of renewables, of increasing energy efficiency, of energy saving and the replacement of especially damaging energy sources by others which are less so, - information campaigns on hazardous substances and toxic waste and pesticides in particular, - the promotion of trade in products that have been produced in a sustainable manner, - the elaboration of programmes and projects for sustainable development, - support for the elaboration of development priorities and self-development capacities of indigenous and local communities, - the formulation of instruments aimed at promoting sustainable development and environmental integration (e.g. public databases on the Web), - observance of special environmental standards (in particular, labels and certification), - regional projects or projects that help to strengthen regional co-operation in the area of sustainable development, - the dynamics of the links between international environmental instruments and human rights. In order to ensure increased effectiveness of the Regulation, the Parliament asks that priority should be given to projects based on the requests of the beneficiaries themselves or on criteria drawn up by the developing countries. With respect to comitology, the Parliament supports the idea of an advisory committee procedure. It modifies the funding thresholds proposed by the Commission which sought another type of procedure (5 million euros instead of the 2 million proposed by the Commission). It also calls for the establishment of an environmental monitoring unit which would be responsible for the co-ordination, linking and integration of the various aspects of development co-operation projects in order to maximise investigation and follow-up. Lastly, it strengthened the scope of the evaluation reports to be transmitted to the Parliament and the Council and calls on the Commission to submit to it no later than 31/12/2000 a report on the legislative and other initiatives that it intends proposing with a indicative calendar for adoption. ?

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development

The Council has been able to accept a substantial number of the amendments proposed by the European Parliament. Where the Commission and the Council were unable to accept Parliament's amendments or parts of them, it was usually because of one or several of the following reasons: - the provision of details concerning themes and activities, which were already addressed in other parts of the regulation and/or which were considered to burden the structure and equilibrium of the regulation without adding to its completeness; - other amendments were no longer relevant given the evolution of the text or were considered redundant for the purpose of the regulation; - amendments that were insufficiently clear, unworkable or too limiting, etc. In its common position, the Council has approved the essence and wording of the Commission's proposal with the exceptions relating to the legal basis, duration of the programme, funding and comitology. In addition, the Council thought desirable to integrate a new task for the joint Committees' meeting which aims at the approval of annual strategic guidelines and priorities to underline the focus on a strategic approach. Furthermore, the legal basis put forward by the Commission in its proposal is considered by the Council in its common position as being the most appropriate in view of the aim and content of the proposal. As far as the duration of the Regulation is concerned, the Council has opted for a seven year period (2000-2006) which corresponds to the period for which financial perspectives have been fixed. The Commission's evaluation report will be due four years after the entering into force of the Regulation and shall contain suggestions concerning the future of the Regulation. As a consequence of the seven year programme, the financial reference amount has been fixed at EUR 50,4 million, which results from the 2000 draft budget appropriations of annual EUR 8 million. This amount has further been reduced by 10% to take account of the July Decision of the Budget Control on Category 4 expenditures. By the introduction of this indicative amount the Council has partially taken into consideration the European Parliament's amendment No 52. The Council has also changed the committee procedure whereby the powers of the committee would be exercised under the management committee procedure, as set out in the Council decision of 28 June 1999 laying down on the Commission. The Council considers that such a committee procedure will ensure maximum coordination with Member States activities and thus contributing to necessary complementarity. In addition, an annual Commission document on strategic guidelines and priorities will be submitted to the appropriate geographical Committee which will approve the document in accordance with the management committee procedure. In conclusion, the Council considers that its common position constitutes a balanced text to ensure the continuation of activities implemented under Council Regulation 722/97/EC of 22 April 1997 after its expiry on 31 December 1999. It reflects the need to mainstream environmental issues in the development cooperation policy and to assist the Community in meetings its legal and political commitments to the protection of the environment in the context of sustainable development.?

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The Commission and the Council have seen fit to adopt more than half of the amendments proposed by the European Parliament in its first reading, thus revealing a great concordance of views between the three institutions as to the purpose and scope of the proposed Regulation. The Commission maintains its basic reservations concerning the following aspects of the Council's common position: - financial reference amount (the Commission considers that the amount cannot be fixed until agreement has been reached between the two wings of the legislative and budgetary authority), - duration of the Regulation (the Commission considers it preferable not to set an expiry date for the validity of the legal instrument), - committee procedures: (given the nature of the decisions to be taken and the funding envisaged for the duration of the programme, the Commission nonetheless considers that it would be more appropriate for the geographically determined committee assisting the Commission in its implementing powers to be of the advisory type). However, as regards the above-mentioned horizontal aspects, the Commission adopts a position which is essentially different from that of the Council in that it rallies more closely to the concerns expressed by Parliament. Indeed, by maintaining its position on these aspects and not endorsing the common position, the Commission has obliged the Council to adopt the common position by unanimous vote.?

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The Commission was able to accept 28 EP amendments in full or in part, in some cases subject to some rewording or insertion in a different part of the regulation text than initially proposed. Some amendments became redundant after other clarifications to the text were made. The amendments or important parts of the amendments that the Commission was unable to accept can be grouped under one or several of the following categories: - the provision of details, concerning themes and activities, which were already addressed in other parts of the regulation and/or which were considered to burden the structure and equilibrium of the regulation without adding to its completeness; - other amendments that were considered already to be covered in the original version of the proposed regulation; - quotes or provision details relating to various applicable policy documents and legal acts which were considered redundant for the purpose of the regulation; - amendments relating to the interpretation of the scope of the regulation which were considered either too broad or too limiting; - management issues which are of the competence of the Commission; - amendments that were not in accordance with standard formulation or similar regulations; - amendments that were insufficiently clear, redundant, unworkable or too limiting.?

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The committee adopted the recommendation for second reading (codecision procedure) by Anders WIJKMAN (EPP/ED, S) amending the Council's common position. In particular, the committee wanted the overall budget for the period 2000-2006 to be EUR 93m and not EUR 50.4m as proposed by Council. It also argued that development cooperation projects should include an environmental dimension, which would identify and assess the sustainability of projects. In addition, the report called for the use of renewable energy sources to be encouraged, harmful energy sources to be replaced by those which did less damage and biological diversity to be preserved (in particular by protecting ecosystems and habitats and conserving species diversity). The committee also wanted to see measures to boost trade in products

manufactured using sustainable production methods, and called for information campaigns to be conducted on dangerous substances, in particular toxic waste and pesticides.?

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The European Parliament has adopted the report drafted by Mr. Anders WIJKMAN (EPP/ED, Sw) for a resolution on the common position adopted by the Council with a view to adopting a European Parliament and Council Regulation on measures to promote the full integration of the environmental dimension in the development process of developing countries. The report was adopted subject to amendments which relate to: - the inclusion in development cooperation projects of environmental considerations enabling the sustainable dimension of these projects to be distinguished, identified and addressed; - the encouragement of the use of renewable energy sources, increased energy efficiency, energy saving and the replacement of especially damaging energy sources by others which are less so; - the need to protect ecosystems and habitats and the conservation of special diversity; - the environmental problems related to industrial activities; - the promotion of trade in products that have been produced in a sustainable manner; - the need to use databases and databanks for example on the Internet (open to public) when formulating guidelines and manuals and instruments aimed at promoting sustainable development and environmental integration; - the need for information campaigns on hazardous substances and toxic waste and pesticides in particular; - the increased need to coordinate activities by means of exchanges between local partners, NGOs and grassroots communities and associations, as well as representatives of the Commission and of the Member States; - the financial framework has been changed from EUR 50,4 million to EUR 93 million, and the Commission shall submit a proposal for a new framework to the European Parliament and the Council before the end of 2005.?

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The Commission's opinion of the European Parliament's amendments are as follows. The amendments accepted by the Commission include: - amendments 19, 20 and 21 which relate to the provisions for a split comitology arrangement. The adoption of individual projects and programmes would be subject to an advisory procedure, while the choice of strategic guidelines would come under a management committee; - amendments 1 and 8 are of secondary importance and burden the text with repetitious material and detail. The Commission accepts them purely in a spirit of compromise and in the knowledge that the Council for its part is also willing to accept them. Moreover, the Commission accepted in part amendment 11 which relates to the compromise over the financial allocation. It was stated during discussions in the Council working party that favourable consideration would be given to a figure of EUR 93 million and the Commission can support this proposal. However, amendment 11 also inserts a clause requiring the Commission to submit a proposal for a further allocation to Parliament and the Council by the end of 2005. This clause is now superfluous in that the proposed legal instrument is no longer of unlimited duration. Finally, the Commission did accept amendment 9, however, it considered that it would be better placed in a different clause. The amendment concerns coordination with non-governmental organisations. The provision in this amendment deals with Treaty-based obligations regarding the cooperation with Member States. Therefore, a more appropriate place for it would be as an addition to Article 5(6).?

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The Conciliation Committee reached agreement on a joint text for the regulation on measures to promote the full integration of the environmental dimension in the development process of developing countries. Of the 13 amendments which Parliament had tabled to the Council's common position, the Council accepted nine as they stood, including the proposed increase in the budget from EUR 50.4 million to EUR 93 million. As far as the amendments on comitology were concerned, a compromise was reached whereby the management committee procedure would apply to decisions relating to grants of EUR 2.5 million or more, while in other cases the Commission would decide without the involvement of the committee. As Parliament managed to secure adequate financing of the activities covered by the regulation and achieved substantial improvements as to its content, the EP delegation decided to recommend that the plenary approve the joint text.?

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The Parliament approved the joint text.?

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PURPOSE: to promote the full integration of the environmental dimension in the development process of developing countries. COMMUNITY MEASURE: Council Regulation 2493/2000/EC. CONTENT: Sustainable development relies on the integration of the environmental dimension into the development process. Since resources are limited, the creation of suitable policies, strategies and tools and the implementation of experimental schemes are essential elements for such integration in economic and development cooperation. Against this background, the financial instruments available to the Community for supporting sustainable development in developing countries should be supplemented and coordination of operations financed under Community instruments should be improved. To this end, the main provisions of the Regulation include the following: - the Community shall provide financial assistance and appropriate expertise aimed at drawing up and promoting the

implementation of policies, strategies and tools for the pursuit of sustainable development; - the activities to be carried out shall address, inter alia: 1) global and transboundary environmental issues and environmental impacts related to the integration of developing countries into the world economy; 2) environmental impacts of macroeconomic and sectoral policies, sustainable patterns of production and consumption and sustainable management and use of natural and environmental resources in all productive sectors; 3) environmental problems caused by the non-sustainable use of resources due to poverty; 4) sustainable production and use of energy and chemical products; 5) conservation of biological diversity; 6) management of fresh water resources, coastal zone, estuary and wetland management, desertification and urban environment problems relating to certain areas. Activities eligible for financing include, amongst others: - support for the drawing up of national, regional and local policies, plans and strategies, programmes and projects for sustainable development; - schemes to build up the institutional and operational capacities of actors in the development process; - pilot projects in the field including those involving environmentally-sound technologies adapted to local constraints and needs; - inventory, accounting and statistical work, in order to improve the quality of environmental data and environmental indicators. In the selection, preparation, implementation and evaluation of activities, particular attention shall be paid to a number of factors. Community financing may cover different kinds of undertakings (e.g. studies, technical assistance) and other donors may be involved as co-financiers. Financial assistance under this Regulation shall take the form of grants and the financial framework during the period from 2000 to 2006 shall be EUR 93 million. In conclusion, this Regulation shall apply until 31.12.2006.?