


Procedure file

Basic information	
CNS - Consultation procedure Regulation	2000/0111(CNS) Procedure completed
South-east Europe, western Balkans: Community assistance, CARDS programme, 2000-2006	
Repealing Regulation (EC) No 1628/96 1996/0096(CNS)	
Amending Decision 97/256/EC 1996/0278(CNS)	
Amending Decision 1999/311/EC 1998/0246(CNS)	
Amended by 2001/0223(CNS)	
Amended by 2004/0260(CNS)	
Subject	
6.10.05 Peace preservation, humanitarian and rescue tasks, crisis management	
6.20.03 Bilateral economic and trade agreements and relations	
6.40.03 Relations with South-East Europe and the Balkans	

Key players				
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed	
	ITRE Industry, External Trade, Research, Energy		12/10/2000	
		PSE WESTENDORP Y CABEZA Carlos		
	Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed	
	AFET Foreign Affairs, Human Rights, Common Security, Defense (Associated committee)		24/05/2000	
		V/ALE LAGENDIJK Joost		
	BUDG Budgets		19/07/2000	
	PSE FÄRM Göran			
CONT Budgetary Control		11/07/2000		
	V/ALE STAES Bart			
CULT Culture, Youth, Education, Media and Sport		17/10/2000		
	PPE-DE GARGANI Giuseppe			
Council of the European Union	Council configuration	Meeting	Date	
	Industry	2318	05/12/2000	
	General Affairs	2308	20/11/2000	
	General Affairs	2294	09/10/2000	
European Commission	Commission DG	Commissioner		
	External Relations			

Key events			

10/05/2000	Initial legislative proposal published	COM(2000)0281	Summary
04/10/2000	Legislative proposal published	COM(2000)0628	Summary
09/10/2000	Debate in Council	2294	
23/10/2000	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
07/11/2000	Vote in committee		Summary
07/11/2000	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading	A5-0330/2000	
14/11/2000	Debate in Parliament		
15/11/2000	Decision by Parliament	T5-0507/2000	Summary
05/12/2000	Act adopted by Council after consultation of Parliament		
05/12/2000	End of procedure in Parliament		
07/12/2000	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2000/0111(CNS)
Procedure type	CNS - Consultation procedure
Procedure subtype	Legislation
Legislative instrument	Regulation
	<p>Repealing Regulation (EC) No 1628/96 1996/0096(CNS)</p> <p>Amending Decision 97/256/EC 1996/0278(CNS)</p> <p>Amending Decision 1999/311/EC 1998/0246(CNS)</p> <p>Amended by 2001/0223(CNS)</p> <p>Amended by 2004/0260(CNS)</p>
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 57; EC Treaty (after Amsterdam) EC 308
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	ITRE/5/13867

Documentation gateway

Initial legislative proposal	COM(2000)0281	10/05/2000	EC	Summary
Legislative proposal	COM(2000)0628	04/10/2000	EC	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading	A5-0330/2000 OJ C 223 08.08.2001, p. 0007	07/11/2000	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading	T5-0507/2000 OJ C 223 08.08.2001, p. 0103-0168	15/11/2000	EP	Summary
Follow-up document	COM(2010)0793	20/12/2010	EC	Summary
Follow-up document	SEC(2010)1604	20/12/2010	EC	

Additional information

Final act

[Regulation 2000/2666](#)[OJ L 306 07.12.2000, p. 0001](#) Summary

South-east Europe, western Balkans: Community assistance, CARDS programme, 2000-2006

PURPOSE : to present a proposal for assistance for Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (CARDS Programme), and amending Regulation 3906/89/EEC. **CONTENT** : the regulatory framework for assistance to this region must be consolidated. At present, assistance to some of the countries is provided under the Obnova Regulation, certain others receive assistance under the Phare Regulation, and some receive assistance under both programmes. This has caused many operational problems, a fact to which the attention of the European Parliament and the Court of Auditors has been drawn. Phare currently serves the new priorities of enlargement and is no longer suited to the Western Balkans. This proposal represents a single legal framework for providing assistance to the five countries in question, and repeals the Obnova Regulation 1628/96/EC and the provisions in the annex to the Regulation 3906/89/EEC (Phare) applicable to those countries. The main objective of any assistance under this proposal will be to support participation by the receiving countries in the Stabilisation and Association Process and close regional cooperation. This means concentrating the assistance (in the form of investment and institution-building) on building up and modernising institutions so as to strengthen democracy, the rule of law and respect for human and minority rights. These are conditions for assistance, and other political conditions will also apply.?

South-east Europe, western Balkans: Community assistance, CARDS programme, 2000-2006

This amended proposal, (presented before the adoption of the EP's opinion) seeks to take into account the new guidelines proposed by the Commission concerning the reform of the management of external aid. The main aim of the reform is to improve radically the speed, quality and visibility of external aid. The programming principles are clearly set out: a strategy framework will serve as a basis for establishing an indicative multiannual programme which will enable the annual programme to be drawn up. These principles were not clearly affirmed in the previous proposal and should apply in all except exceptional cases. Stepping up programming and setting out a strategy framework to provide a basis for the assistance should allow the Member States to express their views on the priorities and broad guidelines for assistance within the management committee. The guidelines on the reform of external aid recommend that the committees' contribution focus on the programming phase rather than on specific projects, as it is at the programming stage that important issues of policy and strategy arise. It is proposed that the management committee, together with the Commission, would examine the strategy framework (country strategy paper) on which programming is to be based. The multiannual and annual programmes would be submitted to the committee for its opinion. The experience gained since the Agency began operations in February 2000 has highlighted the need to make the decision making process mechanisms connected with reconstruction programmes faster and more operational. It is proposed that the reconstruction programmes proposed by the Agency must be able to be adopted by the Commission without needing to be reviewed by the management committee, and, therefore, that the management committee procedure should not apply. Other minor amendments should be noted: - a distinction is drawn between assistance that can be provided by UNMIK and the OHR under the Regulation regarding assistance and that which is covered by Regulation (EC) 1080/2000; - there should be complementarity between Community assistance and bilateral assistance provided by the Member States; - the alteration of the Regulation setting up a European Training Foundation to allow the Foundation to pursue activities in the countries which are recipients under the regulation on assistance; - the amendment of the Council Decision granting a Community guarantee to the EIB against losses under loans for projects outside the Community to replace the reference to the Obnova Regulation with a reference to this Regulation. The proposed modifications do not entail financial consequences.?

South-east Europe, western Balkans: Community assistance, CARDS programme, 2000-2006

The committee unanimously adopted the report by Carlos WESTENDORP Y CABEZA (PES, E) amending the proposal under the consultation procedure. It essentially wanted to make a number of clarifications to the proposal, stressing, for example, that a democratic and cooperative Federal Republic of Yugoslavia would be a welcome member of the European family and hence eligible for assistance under the CARDS programme. It also stipulated that Kosovo, Montenegro and Serbia should all benefit from the financial aid provided. The committee emphasised that the programme must take into account the need for ethnic reconciliation, democracy, the rule of law and respect for human and minority rights. The Balkan countries themselves must work towards the restoration of civil society, free media and an independent judiciary. Lastly, the report underlined the importance of basic education, youth programmes and culture in the region and urged that EU aid be targeted at improving education and vocational training.?

South-east Europe, western Balkans: Community assistance, CARDS programme, 2000-2006

The Parliament approved the Commission proposal, drafted by Mr Carlos WESTENDORP Y CABEZA (PES, E), which aims to overhaul the financial aid arrangements for the Western Balkans (the CARDS programme). The Parliament makes a number of amendments highlighting the fact that the European Council decisions in Feira and Cologne are binding on the proposal and must therefore be taken into account. (Refer to the decisions of the Committee responsible for a guideline of what the Parliament adopted). In addition to respecting democratic principles, the rule of law, human and minority rights and other fundamental freedoms, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia must also respect international law. The European Parliament wishes to strengthen the administrative parts of the regulation as well as its own role of democratic scrutiny by establishing a degree of accountability for both the Commission and the management committee. ?

South-east Europe, western Balkans: Community assistance, CARDS programme, 2000-2006

PURPOSE : to provide a new legal framework for assistance to the countries of the Former Yugoslavia and Albania (CARDS Programme). **COMMUNITY MEASURE** : Council Regulation 2666/2000/EC on assistance for Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, repealing Regulation 1628/96/EC and amending Regulations 3906/89/EEC and 1360/90/EEC and Decisions 97/256/EC and 1999/311/EC. **CONTENT** : the CARDS Regulation aims to establish a joint legal framework for the assistance to the Balkans (Serbia included) in place of multiple instruments used until present, notably the OBNOVA and PHARE programmes. A financial reference amount for the application of this programme for the period 2000-2006 shall be EUR 4 650 million. The main purpose of the Community assistance is to support participation by the recipient countries in the stabilisation and association process. The assistance shall be for : - the development of the institutional and legislative framework, - reconstruction, aid for the return of refugees and displaced persons, and stabilisation of the region; - sustainable economic development and market-economy-oriented economic reform; - the development of closer relations among recipient countries, between them and the EU and between them and the accession countries; - fostering regional, transnational, cross-border and interregional cooperation. It should be noted that the respect for the principles of democracy and the rule of law and for human and minority rights and fundamental freedoms is an essential element for the application of this Regulation and a precondition for the eligibility for Community assistance. Special attention shall be paid to the regional dimension of Community assistance, with a view to stepping up regional cooperation. In order to promote cooperation in the region, the regulation provides for the participation in invitations to tender and contracts, as well as, participation by countries which are recipients under the TACIS and MEDA programmes on a case-by-case basis. The assistance shall be provided as: - a strategic framework ('Country Strategic Paper'), for the period 2000-2006, which shall serve to set the long-term objectives for assistance and priority fields of action in recipient countries and annual action programmes, based on multiannual indicative programmes drawn up for three year periods, for each country receiving Community assistance. Such programmes shall describe the reforms to be carried out by partners in priority sectors and include an assessment of progress made in doing so and also indicative amounts are also given. In view of the political situation in some areas (Kosovo in particular) and the nature of various entities that have responsibility for implementing assistance there (UNMIK or the Office for the High Representative in Bosnia and Herzegovina), it is desirable to provide that the assistance shall be supplied in some cases directly to recipients other than the State. The Council shall review this Regulation before 31.12.2004. The Commission shall submit to the Council an evaluation report of CARDS not later than 30.07.2000, together with proposals for the future of this Regulation and for any amendments needing to be made to it. It should also be noted that in the light of the scope of this Regulation, consequent changes will have to be made to the PHARE regulation and the TEMPUS III Decision. **ENTRY INTO FORCE** : 07.12.00, the same date that the OBNOVA Regulation 1628/96/EC is abrogated. The Regulation is applicable until 31.12.2006.

PURPOSE : to provide a new legal framework for assistance to the countries of the Former Yugoslavia and Albania (CARDS Programme). **COMMUNITY MEASURE** : Council Regulation 2666/2000/EC on assistance for Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, repealing Regulation 1628/96/EC and amending Regulations 3906/89/EEC and 1360/90/EEC and Decisions 97/256/EC and 1999/311/EC. **CONTENT** : the CARDS Regulation aims to establish a joint legal framework for the assistance to the Balkans (Serbia included) in place of multiple instruments used until present, notably the OBNOVA and PHARE programmes. A financial reference amount for the application of this programme for the period 2000-2006 shall be EUR 4 650 million. The main purpose of the Community assistance is to support participation by the recipient countries in the stabilisation and association process. The assistance shall be for : - the development of the institutional and legislative framework, - reconstruction, aid for the return of refugees and displaced persons, and stabilisation of the region; - sustainable economic development and market-economy-oriented economic reform; - the development of closer relations among recipient countries, between them and the EU and between them and the accession countries; - fostering regional, transnational, cross-border and interregional cooperation. It should be noted that the respect for the principles of democracy and the rule of law and for human and minority rights and fundamental freedoms is an essential element for the application of this Regulation and a precondition for the eligibility for Community assistance. Special attention shall be paid to the regional dimension of Community assistance, with a view to stepping up regional cooperation. In order to promote cooperation in the region, the regulation provides for the participation in invitations to tender and contracts, as well as, participation by countries which are recipients under the TACIS and MEDA programmes on a case-by-case basis. The assistance shall be provided as: - a strategic framework ('Country Strategic Paper'), for the period 2000-2006, which shall serve to set the long-term objectives for assistance and priority fields of action in recipient countries and annual action programmes, based on multiannual indicative programmes drawn up for three year periods, for each country receiving Community assistance. Such programmes shall describe the reforms to be carried out by partners in priority sectors and include an assessment of progress made in doing so and also indicative amounts are also given. In view of the political situation in some areas (Kosovo in particular) and the nature of various entities that have responsibility for implementing assistance there (UNMIK or the Office for the High Representative in Bosnia and Herzegovina), it is desirable to provide that the assistance shall be supplied in some cases directly to recipients other than the State. The Council shall review this Regulation before 31.12.2004. The Commission shall submit to the Council an evaluation report of CARDS not later than 30.07.2000, together with proposals for the future of this Regulation and for any amendments needing to be made to it. It should also be noted that in the light of the scope of this Regulation, consequent changes will have to be made to the PHARE regulation and the TEMPUS III Decision. **ENTRY INTO FORCE** : 07.12.00, the same date that the OBNOVA Regulation 1628/96/EC is abrogated. The Regulation is applicable until 31.12.2006.?