




# Procedure file

Basic information	
COD - Ordinary legislative procedure (ex-codecision procedure) Decision	2000/0157(COD) Procedure completed
Social exclusion: Community action programme 2001-2005 to encourage cooperation between Member States Amended by <a href="#">2003/0303(COD)</a>	
Subject 4.10.05 Social inclusion, poverty, minimum income	

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	<b>DELE</b> EP Delegation to Conciliation Committee		22/06/2001
		GUE/NGL <a href="#">FIGUEIREDO Ilda</a>	
	Former committee responsible		
	<b>EMPL</b> Employment and Social Affairs		05/07/2000
		GUE/NGL <a href="#">FIGUEIREDO Ilda</a>	
	<b>EMPL</b> Employment and Social Affairs		05/07/2000
		GUE/NGL <a href="#">FIGUEIREDO Ilda</a>	
	Former committee for opinion		
	<b>BUDG</b> Budgets		19/07/2000
	PPE-DE <a href="#">PRONK Bartho</a>		
<b>ECON</b> Economic and Monetary Affairs		24/05/2000	
	PSE <a href="#">BULLMANN Udo</a>		
<b>ITRE</b> Industry, External Trade, Research, Energy	The committee decided not to give an opinion.		
<b>FEMM</b> Women's Rights and Equal Opportunities		11/07/2000	
	PPE-DE <a href="#">KRATSA-TSAGAROPOULOU Rodi</a>		
Council of the European Union	Council configuration	Meeting	Date
	Budget	<a href="#">2388</a>	21/11/2001
	<a href="#">Economic and Financial Affairs ECOFIN</a>	<a href="#">2329</a>	12/02/2001
	<a href="#">Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs2313</a>		27/11/2000
	<a href="#">Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs2296</a>		17/10/2000
European Commission	Commission DG	Commissioner	
	<a href="#">Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion</a>		

Key events			
16/06/2000	Legislative proposal published	COM(2000)0368	Summary
03/07/2000	Committee referral announced in Parliament, 1st reading		
12/10/2000	Vote in committee, 1st reading		Summary
12/10/2000	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading	<a href="#">A5-0307/2000</a>	
15/11/2000	Debate in Parliament		
16/11/2000	Decision by Parliament, 1st reading	<a href="#">T5-0513/2000</a>	Summary
24/11/2000	Modified legislative proposal published	COM(2000)0796	Summary
12/02/2001	Council position published	<a href="#">13740/1/2000</a>	Summary
14/02/2001	Committee referral announced in Parliament, 2nd reading		
25/04/2001	Vote in committee, 2nd reading		Summary
25/04/2001	Committee recommendation tabled for plenary, 2nd reading	<a href="#">A5-0155/2001</a>	
16/05/2001	Debate in Parliament		
17/05/2001	Decision by Parliament, 2nd reading	<a href="#">T5-0268/2001</a>	Summary
07/09/2001	Parliament's amendments rejected by Council		
18/09/2001	Formal meeting of Conciliation Committee		
18/09/2001	Final decision by Conciliation Committee		Summary
15/10/2001	Joint text approved by Conciliation Committee co-chairs	<a href="#">3650/2001</a>	
24/10/2001	Report tabled for plenary, 3rd reading	<a href="#">A5-0372/2001</a>	
15/11/2001	Debate in Parliament		
15/11/2001	Decision by Parliament, 3rd reading	<a href="#">T5-0603/2001</a>	Summary
21/11/2001	Decision by Council, 3rd reading		
07/12/2001	Final act signed		
07/12/2001	End of procedure in Parliament		
12/01/2002	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2000/0157(COD)
Procedure type	COD - Ordinary legislative procedure (ex-codecision procedure)
Procedure subtype	Legislation
Legislative instrument	Decision

	Amended by <a href="#">2003/0303(COD)</a>
Legal basis	EC Treaty (after Amsterdam) EC 137-p2/3
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	CODE/5/14883

## Documentation gateway

Legislative proposal	<a href="#">COM(2000)0368</a> <a href="#">OJ C 337 28.11.2000, p. 0130 E</a>	16/06/2000	EC	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading	<a href="#">A5-0307/2000</a> <a href="#">OJ C 223 08.08.2001, p. 0005</a>	12/10/2000	EP	
Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report	<a href="#">CES1216/2000</a> <a href="#">OJ C 014 16.01.2001, p. 0069</a>	19/10/2000	ESC	
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading	<a href="#">T5-0513/2000</a> <a href="#">OJ C 223 08.08.2001, p. 0192-0284</a>	16/11/2000	EP	Summary
Modified legislative proposal	<a href="#">COM(2000)0796</a> <a href="#">OJ C 096 27.03.2001, p. 0229 E</a>	24/11/2000	EC	Summary
Committee of the Regions: opinion	<a href="#">CDR0302/2000</a> <a href="#">OJ C 144 16.05.2001, p. 0052</a>	13/12/2000	CofR	
Council position	<a href="#">13740/1/2000</a> <a href="#">OJ C 093 23.03.2001, p. 0011</a>	12/02/2001	CSL	Summary
Commission communication on Council's position	<a href="#">SEC(2001)0208</a>	13/02/2001	EC	Summary
Committee recommendation tabled for plenary, 2nd reading	<a href="#">A5-0155/2001</a>	25/04/2001	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, 2nd reading	<a href="#">T5-0268/2001</a> <a href="#">OJ C 034 07.02.2002, p. 0252-0322 E</a>	17/05/2001	EP	Summary
Commission opinion on Parliament's position at 2nd reading	<a href="#">COM(2001)0375</a>	29/06/2001	EC	Summary
Joint text approved by Conciliation Committee co-chairs	<a href="#">3650/2001</a>	15/10/2001	CSL/EP	
Report tabled for plenary by Parliament delegation to Conciliation Committee, 3rd reading	<a href="#">A5-0372/2001</a>	24/10/2001	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, 3rd reading	<a href="#">T5-0603/2001</a> <a href="#">OJ C 140 13.06.2002, p. 0378-0527 E</a>	15/11/2001	EP	Summary

## Additional information

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

<a href="#">Decision 2002/50</a> <a href="#">OJ L 010 12.01.2002, p. 0001-0007</a> Summary
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## Social exclusion: Community action programme 2001-2005 to encourage cooperation between Member States

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**PURPOSE** : proposal for a decision on Community action programme which enables the Union and the Member States to enhance the effectiveness of policies to combat social exclusion. **CONTENT** : The Lisbon European Council of March 2000 incorporated the promotion of social inclusion as intrinsic to the Union's overall strategy to become the most dynamic knowledge-based economy in the world. It agreed that policies for combating social exclusion should be based on an open method of coordination combining national action plans and a Commission initiative for cooperation. This programme will run from 1 January 2001 to 31 December 2005. The financial reference amount is EUR 70 million. Its objectives are: -improving the understanding of social exclusion; -organising policy cooperation and mutual learning in the context of the national action plan -developing the capacity of actors to address social exclusion effectively, in particular through networking at EU level. The following actions will be implemented within a transnational framework: -analysis of characteristics, causes, processes and trends in social exclusion, including the collection of comparable statistics, the development of common methodologies and thematic studies; -policy cooperation and exchange of information and best practices on the basis of the development of quantitative and qualitative indicators and benchmarks and through periodic monitoring, evaluation and peer review; -promotion of dialogue involving the various stakeholders and support to networking at European level between NGOs active in the fight against poverty and social exclusion. An annual Round table conference on Social Exclusion organised in collaboration with the EU Presidency will be held.?

## Social exclusion: Community action programme 2001-2005 to encourage cooperation between Member States

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The committee adopted the report by Ilda FIGUEIREDO (EUL/NGL, P) amending the Commission proposal under the codecision procedure (first reading). The committee endorsed the principles of the programme but felt that a number of additions and amendments were needed. In particular, it expressed surprise that the title of the programme referred only to social exclusion, and called for the word 'poverty' to be included therein. It also wanted particular attention to be paid to the social groups most affected by poverty, namely, children, the elderly, migrants, refugees and ethnic minorities, the homeless, people with disabilities and the unemployed. It also highlighted the plight of those living in certain regions, such as declining industrial areas, poor rural areas and the outermost regions. The programme, it felt, should also include important fields of action omitted in the Commission proposal, such as vocational qualifications and integration into working life, and should take account of the increasingly widespread phenomenon of the 'working poor', i.e. of social exclusion and poverty despite gainful employment. On the basis of the new open method of coordination, the committee felt that new forms of participation should be introduced, involving poor and excluded people themselves. Indicators and quantitative and qualitative assessment criteria should also be drawn up within a transnational framework, including criteria and indicators for child poverty. The committee accordingly proposed that a network be established linking national observatories or similar bodies so that the Commission could coordinate and make use of their work. It also called on the Commission to create a Reflection Group bringing together representatives of organisations with experience in the field and representatives of various EU institutions. The Group would assist in the preparation of the EU's annual round table conference on social exclusion and poverty. The annual findings and results of the programme should be included in the annual spring report on the economic and social situation in the EU in order to ensure that employment and social policy initiatives were placed on an equal footing with economic policy instruments. Lastly, the committee called for the funding for the programme to be raised from EUR 70m to EUR 100m. ?

## Social exclusion: Community action programme 2001-2005 to encourage cooperation between Member States

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The European Parliament has adopted a report by Mrs Ilda FIGUEIREDO (EUL/NGL, P) which aims to establish a programme on combating social exclusion for the period 1 January 2001 to 31 December 2005. In order to speed up the adoption of the proposal, Parliament followed the amendments originally tabled by the committee responsible. (Refer to the previous document). ?

## Social exclusion: Community action programme 2001-2005 to encourage cooperation between Member States

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This amended proposal for a Council decision presented by the Commission concerns establishing a programme of Community action to encourage cooperation between Member States to combat social exclusion. The following are the main amendments incorporated into the Commission's amended proposal: - the link with the Lisbon European Council conclusions on combating social exclusion have been reinforced; - stronger emphasis on improvement of indicators and assessment criteria, and the development of comparable parameters to support cooperation between Member States in the context of the open method of coordination; - in line with the Lisbon conclusions, further references to poverty have been incorporated where possible; - the role of the Social Protection Committee has been underlined; - it is proposed to reflect progress achieved under the programme in the Commission's Annual Synthesis Report in the Spring European Council; - specific references have been made to the revised Social Charter of the Council of Europe, Council Recommendations 92/441/EEC, and 92/442/EEC as well as to the Council conclusions of 17.12.1999; - the involvement of all relevant actors at all levels and the importance of reflecting experience on the ground as well as of people affected by poverty and social exclusion has been stressed while making clear that the programme of Community action will focus on transnational cooperation and support networking at EU level only; - provisions with regard to consistency and complementarity with other Community policies, instruments and actions have been strengthened; - reference has been made to the role of the Committee established for the programme; - finally, in the annex, specific attention has been drawn to the multiple dimensions of social exclusion, transnational exchanges between national observatories or similar recognised bodies, consultation of all relevant actors in preparing the EU Round Table Conference and the possible funding of up to 90% of the running costs of European networks when justified by their financial situation.?

## Social exclusion: Community action programme 2001-2005 to encourage cooperation between Member States

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The Council adopted in full, in spirit if not in letter, 25 of the 31 amendments wholly or partly incorporated by the Commission in its amended proposal. The amendments involved relate in particular to the following issues: - adding "poverty" to "social exclusion"; - the need to make a decisive impact on the eradication of poverty by setting adequate targets; - drawing up of harmonised surveys and the establishment of common quantitative indicators to provide a basis for the development of the open method of co-ordination; - mentioning the fact that the fight against social exclusion and poverty requires participation in quality employment and access for all to resources, rights, goods and services; - the role given by the Lisbon and Feira European Council to the Social Protection Committee; - the taking into account non-governmental organisations at various levels as having experience and knowledge in fighting social exclusion and therefore being able to make an important contribution at European level ; - ensuring that coherence and complementarity of actions under the programme extends and applies to all other relevant Community instruments, policies and actions, in particular the Structural Funds; - the promotion of equality between men and women; - adding "poverty" and "promoting a dialogue with all those involved"; - adding "poverty" to the mention of "social dialogue"; - the promotion of support to relevant networking; - the regular co-operation that the Commission shall establish with the Social Protection Committee; - extending the list of the policies for which consistency and complementarity will need to be ensured with regard to economic, industrial, enterprise policies, and immigration; - the reporting of progress of the programme in the Commission's annual summary report; - raising the importance of reflecting the experience on the grounds of persons confronted with social exclusion and poverty, making use of all the relevant sources of information on social exclusion and poverty, including information coming from NGOs and paying special attention to the multiple dimensions and the diverse situations of social groups affected including child poverty, and of the areas which are exposed to the risks of social exclusion; - adding technical work on indicators to the list of measures which may be supported by the Programme; - adding the possibility for the Programme to support field visits, exchanges of staff and exchanges between national observatories or similar recognised bodies. Furthermore, the Council has introduced new provisions which provide in particular for special attention to be paid to social exclusion with a view to enlargement. On the other hand, the Council did not think it advisable to incorporate the recital referring to compatibility between reference amount and the current financial framework, as proposed by the European Parliament. ?

## Social exclusion: Community action programme 2001-2005 to encourage cooperation between Member States

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The Council's common position maintains the main features of the proposed decision and makes several additions to the text reflecting the conclusions of the Lisbon European Council, the need to develop work on indicators and criteria of assessment and the importance of involving all the stakeholders at various levels. These additions are in line with the European Parliament's amendments and the Commission welcomes them. The Council adds furthermore references in the recitals to enlargement and the work carried out by other international organisations, which the Commission also welcomes. In relation to the implementation of the programme, the Council introduces a management procedure in accordance with Decision 1999/468/EC. The Commission has proposed a consultation procedure only but accepts it because it is compatible with the said Decision and might be interpreted as a sign from Member States to become more strongly involved in the management of the Programme. In this way it can support cooperation between them, in the context of open method of coordination, more effectively. However, the Commission regrets that : - no reference is made to the revised social Charter of the Council of Europe in the recitals. The Commission suggests that the recitals should now also include a reference to the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights which the Council, the European Parliament and the Commission jointly signed on 7 December 2001; - there is no mention in the recitals that the reference amount of the programme is compatible with the current financial framework; - there is no mention in the objectives of the programme in article 3 that exchanges on policies which are implemented and mutual learning shall be organised on the basis of comparable parameters. Comparability is vital in the context of the open method of coordination and for the European added value expected from the programme. Furthermore, the Commission cannot accept that : - there would be a less favourable treatment in terms of funding between European networks involved in the fight against poverty and social exclusion eligible under this programme and those eligible for funding under the anti-discrimination programme, and invites the Council to adapt its common position accordingly.?

## Social exclusion: Community action programme 2001-2005 to encourage cooperation between Member States

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The committee adopted the report by Ilda Figueirido (EUL/NGL, P) amending the Council's common position under the codecision procedure (2nd reading). The committee reinstated a number of key amendments from first reading. These included: - increasing the funding for the programme from EUR 70m to EUR 100m; - referring in the recitals to the Council of Europe's revised Social Charter of 1996, in particular Article 30 thereof ("the right to protection against poverty and social exclusion"), and to the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights; - introducing a new recital referring to compatibility between the reference amount and the current financial framework; - stating that the overall aim of the programme should be to develop cooperation which would enable the EU and Member States to make a decisive impact against social exclusion and the eradication of poverty as measured by qualitative and quantitative targets agreed by the Council and the European Parliament; - specifying the need to develop comparable parameters to support such cooperation between Member States as part of the open method of coordination; - specifying that, to provide overall consistency, the Commission should also assess its policies and programmes with regard to their possible impact on poverty and social exclusion; - providing for funding of up to 90% (rather than up to 80%) of the running costs of European networks involved in the programme on combating poverty and social exclusion; - specifying the actors who should be involved in preparing the EU Round Table Conference (such as representatives of NGOs, the two sides of industry, and representatives of various EU institutions).?

## Social exclusion: Community action programme 2001-2005 to encourage cooperation between Member States

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By adopting the report, at second reading, by Mrs Ilda FIGUEIRDO (EUL/NGL, P), the European Parliament approved the common position, as set out in the previous text, with a number of amendments. These relate in particular to the funding of the programme which is to be EUR 100 million for the years 2001-2005 instead of EUR 70 million proposed by the Council. Moreover, it should also be noted that the Parliament should be informed of the progress made under the programme.?

## Social exclusion: Community action programme 2001-2005 to encourage cooperation between Member States

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The Commission can accept five of the fifteen amendments proposed by Parliament, in full, in spirit or in part. These include: - the reference to the Charter on Fundamental Rights in addition to the reference to the Social Charter of the Council of Europe. - the reference to the compatibility of the budget with the current financial perspective. - the importance of comparable indicators/parameters at the level of the objectives of the programme, which is in line with the Lisbon, Nice and Stockholm Council conclusions. Rephrasing is suggested. - the proposal to enhance the dialogue with all levels - the reference to a 90% financing ceiling instead of an 80% one and in exceptional circumstances only. The remaining amendments were rejected, including: - the proposal to add to the list of relevant Community tasks "solidarity among Member States". - the proposal that targets should be agreed by Council and Parliament. The conclusions of Lisbon and Nice refer to the Council only. Amendments seeking to strengthen the role of the European Parliament in the open method of co-ordination. The institutional scope of these amendments extends beyond the programme which is but an instrument in the open method of co-ordination. - the proposal to open funding under the programme to innovative projects with a European added value in combating social exclusion. The aim of the project does not include the funding of actions on the ground. - the assessment of policy impact. This goes beyond the scope of the programme. - the proposal to name the actors to be consulted in the preparation of the annual round table conference. This risks being restrictive, incomplete and less flexible. - the Commission maintains the budget of 70 million Euros, which it considers appropriate and consistent with the availability of human resources.?

## Social exclusion: Community action programme 2001-2005 to encourage cooperation between Member States

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At its first meeting, the Conciliation Committee was able to reach agreement on the action programme against social exclusion, thereby bringing the procedure to a swift conclusion and ensuring that the programme could start without delay at the beginning of 2002. Under the compromise reached, Parliament's delegation managed to increase the budget of the programme by 5 million to EUR 75m and ensure that the upper limit for EU funding to support NGOs involved in the programme would be 90% of the cost of a project instead of the 80% originally proposed by the Council. The upper limit would, however, be applied only "in exceptional circumstances". Under the compromise deal, the Council agreed to an extension of possible support for "innovative approaches" in the implementation of the programme, one of the demands of the EP delegation. Moreover, Commissioner Anna Diamantopoulou declared that the Commission was committed to promoting innovative approaches. Lastly, there was recognition of the role which Parliament had to play, especially in the preparation of the annual Round Table and the assessment of the Commission's annual report for the Spring European Council on the overall consistency of the policies with social cohesion, including the progress achieved in the context of the programme against social exclusion. The Commission's report would be sent to Parliament to enable the latter to express its opinion in good time. ?

## Social exclusion: Community action programme 2001-2005 to encourage cooperation between Member States

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By adopting the report by Mrs Ilda FIGUEIREDO (EUL/NGL, P), the European Parliament approved the joint text approved by the Conciliation Committee, as set out in the previous text.?

## Social exclusion: Community action programme 2001-2005 to encourage cooperation between Member States

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**PURPOSE :** to establish a programme of Community action to encourage cooperation between the Member States to combat social exclusion. **COMMUNITY MEASURE :** Decision 50/2002/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a programme of Community action to encourage cooperation between Member States to combat social exclusion. **CONTENT :** this Decision establishes a programme of Community action to encourage cooperation between Member States in order to combat social exclusion for the period 1 January 2002 to 31 December 2006. The financial framework for the implementation of the programme for this set period is set at EUR 75 million, including technical and administrative measures. The programme shall be part of an open method of coordination between Member States to give a decisive impetus to the elimination of social exclusion and poverty by setting appropriate objectives at Community level and by the implementation of national actions plans. The programme and the national action plans shall contribute to a better understanding of social exclusion, the mainstreaming of the combating of exclusion in Member States' and Community policies and measures, and the development of priority actions chosen by Member States in accordance with their particular situation. In designing, implementing and following up the activities under the programme, account shall be taken of the experience of Member States at all levels involved and of people exposed to social exclusion and poverty, as well as social partners, non-governmental and voluntary organisations, bodies providing social services and other actors involved in the fight against social exclusion. In the context of the open method of coordination, the programme shall support cooperation which enables the effectiveness and efficiency of policies to combat social exclusion by: - improving the understanding of social exclusion and poverty with the help of in particular comparable indicators; - organising exchanges on policies which are implemented and promoting mutual learning inter alia in the context of national action plans, with the help in particular of comparable indicators; - developing the capacity of actors to address social exclusion and poverty effectively, and to promote innovative approaches, in particular through networking at European level, and by promoting dialogue with all those involved including at national and regional level. With a view to achieving these

objectives, the following Community actions may be implemented within a transnational framework: 1) analysis of characteristics, causes, processes and trends in social inclusion, including the collection of statistics on the various forms of social exclusion in order to compare these data, the study of quantitative and qualitative indicators, the development of common methodologies and thematic studies; 2) exchange of information and best practices encouraging the development of quantitative and qualitative indicators, based on these objectives as agreed by the European Parliament and the Council, assessment criteria and benchmarks and monitoring, evaluation and peer review; 3) promotion of dialogue involving the various actors and support for relevant networking at European level between organisations active in the fight against poverty and social exclusion, in particular NGOs. Arrangements for the implementation of the Community actions are set out in the Annex to this Decision. As regards the implementation and cooperation with the Member States, the Commission shall ensure the implementation of the Community actions covered by the programme and will have a regular exchange of views with the representatives of NGOs on the design and implementation of and follow-up to the programme and on related policy orientations. The Commission shall also, in cooperation with the Member States, take the necessary steps to promote the involvement in the programme of all parties concerned and ensure the dissemination of the results of the Community actions undertaken within the framework of the programme. The programme shall be open to the participation of : - the EFTA/EEA countries in accordance with the conditions established in the EEA Agreement; - the associated central and eastern European countries; - Cyprus, Malta and Turkey in accordance with procedures to be agreed by the country. Lastly, the Commission shall regularly monitor this programme in cooperation with the Member States. It shall report on the overall consistency of policies with social cohesion, including progress achieved under this programme in its annual summary report to the Spring European Council, on which the European Parliament shall express its views in due course. The programme shall be evaluated by the Commission by the end of the 3rd year of the programme with the assistance of independent experts. The evaluation will also examine the complementarity between action under the programme and that pursued under other relevant Community policies, instruments and actions. The Commission shall submit to the European Parliament, the Council, the Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions a final report on the implementation of the programme by 31 December 2006. ENTRY INTO FORCE : 12/01/2002.?