

Procedure file

Basic information		
CNS - Consultation procedure Decision	2001/0105(CNS)	Procedure completed
Protection of the euro against counterfeiting, Pericles programme 2002-2005		
Amended by 2005/0029(CNS)		
Amended by 2005/0030(CNS)		
Amended by 2006/0078(CNS)		
Repealed by 2011/0449(COD)		
Subject		
5.20.02 Single currency, euro, euro area		
7.30.30.10 Action against counterfeiting		

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	LIBE Citizens' Freedoms and Rights, Justice and Home Affairs		10/07/2001
		PSE SCHMID Gerhard	
	Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
	BUDG Budgets		26/06/2001
		PPE-DE NARANJO ESCOBAR Juan Andrés	
	ECON Economic and Monetary Affairs		27/08/2001
		PSE TORRES MARQUES Helena	
	EMPL Employment and Social Affairs	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
Council of the European Union	Council configuration	Meeting	Date
	Fisheries	2400	17/12/2001
European Commission	Commission DG	Commissioner	
	European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF)		

Key events			
22/05/2001	Legislative proposal published	COM(2001)0248	Summary
05/07/2001	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
16/10/2001	Vote in committee		Summary
16/10/2001	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading	A5-0362/2001	
13/11/2001	Decision by Parliament	T5-0583/2001	Summary

17/12/2001	Act adopted by Council after consultation of Parliament		
17/12/2001	End of procedure in Parliament		
21/12/2001	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2001/0105(CNS)
Procedure type	CNS - Consultation procedure
Procedure subtype	Legislation
Legislative instrument	Decision
	Amended by 2005/0029(CNS) Amended by 2005/0030(CNS) Amended by 2006/0078(CNS) Repealed by 2011/0449(COD)
Legal basis	EC Treaty (after Amsterdam) EC 123-p4
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed

Documentation gateway

Legislative proposal	COM(2001)0248	22/05/2001	EC	Summary
Document attached to the procedure	BCE(2001)0031 OJ C 293 19.10.2001, p. 0003	09/10/2001	ECB	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading	A5-0362/2001	16/10/2001	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading	T5-0583/2001 OJ C 140 13.06.2002, p. 0023-0114 E	13/11/2001	EP	Summary
Follow-up document	COM(2006)0243	23/05/2006	EC	Summary
Follow-up document	COM(2014)0550	05/09/2014	EC	Summary

Additional information

European Commission	EUR-Lex
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Final act

Decision 2001/923 OJ L 339 21.12.2001, p. 0050 Summary

Protection of the euro against counterfeiting, Pericles programme 2002-2005

PURPOSE : to establish a training, exchange and assistance programme for the protection of the euro against counterfeiting (Pericles Programmes). **CONTENT** : the introduction of the euro and economic and monetary union (EMU) entail unprecedented cooperation requirements in the field of currency protection. The specific needs engendered by these developments will also have to be reflected in the cooperation on training between the national authorities and the Community. The objective is to benefit from the value added by the European dimension, to attain equivalent levels of training at European level and to ensure that national strategies are compatible. Training measures at national level will be of vital importance. It is for each Member State to determine which training activities can be organised in conjunction with the other Member States within the context of the Community or Union contribution. It should be noted that the implementation of the

programme will be based on the active involvement of all the competent institutional bodies at European level and national level, and in particular the ECB and Europol. The Community seeks to protect the euro against counterfeiting. It shall take account of transnational and multidisciplinary aspects. It shall concentrate on promoting convergence of the substance of measures so as to ensure equivalent levels of protection on the basis of mutually agreed best practice while also respecting the distinct traditions of each Member State. In particular, its remit shall encompass: - raising awareness of the staff concerned of the Community dimension of the new currency (also as a reserve currency and a currency for international transaction); - acting as a catalyst to encourage closer cooperation between the staff concerned, the development of a climate of mutual trust and satisfactory mutual knowledge, inter alia of action methods and difficulties, by promoting various appropriate measures such as placements, specialist workshops or the involvement of guest speakers in national training and staff exchanges; - promoting convergence of training for trainers in ways which are compatible with national operational strategies; - expanding general knowledge of Community and international law and instruments. The content of training and of operation support, based on a multidisciplinary and transnational approach, shall embrace not only security issues but also the exchange of information, in particular strategic information, and technical and scientific back-up. Lastly, it is proposed that the "Pericles" action programme shall run from 1 January 2002 to 31 December 2005. ?

Protection of the euro against counterfeiting, Pericles programme 2002-2005

This is an Opinion of the European Central Bank (ECB) on a Council proposal to establish the Pericles programme. This is a training, exchange and assistance programme for the protection of the euro against counterfeiting. In general, the ECB welcomes the initiative. It emphasises the need to avoid duplication or overlap with other Community programmes or with those established under Title VI of the Treaty on European Union. Proper coordination with projects of Europol and the ECB is also essential. The ECB recommends a coordinated approach between Europol, the Commission and the ECB in establishing the content, target groups and methodology of the Pericles programme. The contents of the programme appear to be very broad. Such an approach might lack consistency. Collectively, the various initiatives may fail to raise standards at Community level. This is particularly true in view of the diversity of the target groups addressed by the programme and its limited financial funds. The ECB feels it should be involved in the evaluation of the programme's effectiveness, when the Council comes to decide whether the programme should be continued. Finally, the ECB takes note that the proposal will be extended to non-euro Member States.?

Protection of the euro against counterfeiting, Pericles programme 2002-2005

Using the procedure without debate the European Parliament adopted the report by Gerhard Schmid (PES, D) on the Pericles programme on training officials to deal with the counterfeiting of the euro. Parliament seeks the involvement not only of the associated countries of Central and Eastern Europe but also of the states of the former Yugoslavia, and other third countries where the euro is likely to circulate. It also stipulated that the amounts allocated to the programme should be decided annually by the budgetary authority.?

Protection of the euro against counterfeiting, Pericles programme 2002-2005

PURPOSE: To establish a training programme aimed at protecting the euro from counterfeiting; to be known as the Pericles programme.
COMMUNITY MEASURE: Council Decision 2001/923/EC establishing an exchange, assistance and training programme for the protection of the euro against counterfeiting (the "Pericles" programme)
CONTENT: Following concerns raised by the ECB in 1998 the European Commission was asked to prepare measures to combat euro counterfeiting. Based on past experiences the Commission recommended the launching of a multi-disciplinary action programme. Hence, the establishment of the Pericles programme, which will run from 1 January 2002 to 31 December 2005. The main objective of the action programme is to protect the euro against counterfeiting. The attainment of these objectives should be achieved largely through an increased exchange of information at Community level with all the relevant parties. Such exchanges of information will largely take the form of workshops, meetings, seminars and a targeted policy of placements and exchanges of staff. Technical, scientific and operational back-up could include, for example, a hand-book of EU legislation, information bulletins, practical manuals, glossaries and lexicons, data-bases and computer applications such as software. The above listed measures will target groups including staff of agencies engaged in detecting and combating counterfeiting (police force etc.), intelligence personnel, representatives of commercial banks, judicial officers, specialist lawyers, chambers of commerce or industry. Institutions including inter alia the ECB, Europol and Interpol and/or national central anti-counterfeiting offices should help contribute to the attainment of Pericles' objectives. The financial reference for the implementation of the programme will be set at EUR 4 million. In terms of presentation and selection of projects, the Commission will be responsible for the selection and awarding of projects with Member States being allowed to submit one project a year only. By 30 June 2005 an evaluation Report will advise on whether or not the programme should be continued. **ENTRY INTO FORCE:** Decision shall take effect from 21/12/01 and apply as from 01/01/02. ?

Protection of the euro against counterfeiting, Pericles programme 2002-2005

PURPOSE : to present a report on the implementation and results of the Pericles programme for the protection of the euro against counterfeiting.

CONTENT :Article 13(3)(b) of the Pericles Decision, a detailed report on the implementation and results of the Programme is required to be submitted to the European Parliament and the Council. The present report responds to that requirement.

Overall, since early Summer 2003, the number of counterfeit euro banknotes detected in circulation has stabilised at about 50 000 a month, a level below the pre-euro levels, lower than the US dollar and extremely low compared to the 9 billion genuine euro banknotes in circulation. At the same time, the number of counterfeit euro coins is continuing to increase but also remains low by historical standards. In addition, the police forces have successfully conducted a number of operations to dismantle workshops and seize large numbers of counterfeit banknotes and coins before they enter into circulation.

This overall favourable situation is the result of a long preparation at both legislative and institutional level and demonstrates the high level of cooperation achieved in EU and at international level.

The Pericles programme is playing a significant role in achieving the present results in the protection of the euro and the fight against the crime of counterfeiting, through the exchange of information and the development of cooperation. Training and technical assistance plays an important role in this respect, hence the need to continue the Pericles programme.

As regards the implementation of the programme : based on the reference amount of EUR 4 million for the period 2002-2005 and EUR 1 million for 2006, the annual appropriations authorised under the Pericles programme, were EUR 1.2 million for 2002; EUR 0.9 million for 2003; EUR 0.9 million for 2004; EUR 1 million for 2005 and EUR 1 million for 2006.

The implementation of the Programme made a slow start, mainly due to its adoption in December 2001. Thus, the first project under Pericles was only carried out in October 2002 and the amount committed in 2002 was just under 40% of the initial budget allocation. Subsequently, the programme took off and the budget allocation was committed at high levels in 2003, 2004 and 2005. Based on these statistics/forecasts, the overall level of commitments during the period 2002-2006 will have reached 80% of the initial reference amount.

Value added of the programme : the Pericles programme has been offering substantial value added to the protection of the euro against counterfeiting. This has materialised through a broad range of actions

undertaken, the precise targeting of the actions and the large numbers of participants.

Emphasis was put on the European dimension of the fight against euro counterfeiting and, in addition to the EU Member States, it was possible to target sensitive geographical areas. Finally, the Pericles programme has made a substantial contribution to the further improvement of coordination and cooperation at international, European and Member States level, as well as the creation of more solid structures for the protection of the European currency.

Broad range of Actions : in the course of the first four years of the programme 50 projects were initiated; for 2006 another 14 actions are intended by the Member States and the Commission. Of the total 64 projects, 48 originate from the competent authorities of Member States, while 16 were initiatives of the Commission/OLAF. Most of the actions carried out have been conferences, seminars and workshops, as well as specialised training courses. Staff exchange has, nonetheless, gained ground and has now become a standard feature of Pericles. Following enlargement, this type of activity is likely to develop further, which is also in line with the recommendation of the Pericles evaluator. Only one technical study was implemented under the current Pericles and another two are in the

process of implementation in 2006.

European Dimension : the organisation of Pericles actions covered all the areas relevant to the protection of the euro: law enforcement, judicial, financial and technical and promoted particularly the creation of networks useful for achieving greater efficiency in the fight against the crime of counterfeiting. The European dimension of the protection of the euro is emphasised through the systematic involvement of ECB, Europol and other European and international organisations in Pericles actions.

Geographical Emphasis : the Pericles actions have taken place mostly inside the EU. However, a number of actions have been organised in third or candidate countries, reflecting the specific needs to protect the euro. Awareness-raising actions were a priority for candidate countries before accession. By

identifying areas having a major impact on the production of counterfeit banknotes, South America, in particular Colombia became a major focus for Pericles actions, as were countries neighbouring the EU, including Bulgaria and Romania.

Coordination among European Bodies and within the Commission : Pericles has now practically centralised Community level initiatives carried out by the Commission and Member State with respect to the protection of the euro and has also largely replaced the Commission's specific 'Protection of the euro' budget line. A small number of actions geared to the protection against currency counterfeiting are carried out under other Community programmes, such as TAIEX and Twinning. Such actions are mainly single-country or single-subject actions (i.e. not eligible under Pericles) and are systematically coordinated with Pericles by the competent service in the Commission in coordination with Member States.

Increased cooperation and coordination among Member States : the success of the Pericles programme is demonstrated by the increased effectiveness of the cooperation among law enforcement agents, and more recently, representatives of the judiciary and financial institutions. This is true particularly between Member States but also with respect to acceding, candidate and other neighbouring countries. In addition to its training and technical content, the Pericles programme provides a forum for regular contacts among experts responsible for the protection of the euro but importantly, also enables professionals to develop links which contribute to closer working relationships and improved cooperation overall.

Structural improvements : Pericles actions have led to a number of structural and other improvements in Member States and in third countries. Among others, National Central Offices for the fight against counterfeiting were created in several countries; two Pericles seminars assisted the (then) acceding countries in their efforts to apply the Community acquis in the specific area of protecting the euro; a code of conduct was drawn with respect to press and communication issues; and one of the workshops led to a proposal, by Member States, for a Council Recommendation.