


Procedure file

Basic information		
CNS - Consultation procedure Decision	2003/0110(CNS)	Procedure completed
Relations EU/non-industrialised regions: grants to specialised bodies, action programme 2004-2006		
Subject 6.40.12 Relations with developing countries in general 8.70.02 Financial regulations		

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	AFET Foreign Affairs, Human Rights, Common Security, Defense (Associated committee)	PPE-DE SACRÉDEUS Lennart	08/07/2003
	Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
	BUDG Budgets (Associated committee)	PSE DÜHRKOP DÜHRKOP Bárbara	10/07/2003
	CONT Budgetary Control	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
	ITRE Industry, External Trade, Research, Energy DEVE Development and Cooperation		
Council of the European Union	Council configuration	Meeting	Date
	Environment	2556	22/12/2003
European Commission	Commission DG	Commissioner	
	External Relations		

Key events			
27/05/2003	Legislative proposal published	COM(2003)0280	Summary
27/05/2003	Additional information		Summary
01/09/2003	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
04/11/2003	Vote in committee		Summary
04/11/2003	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading	A5-0384/2003	
20/11/2003	Debate in Parliament		
20/11/2003	Decision by Parliament	T5-0513/2003	Summary
22/12/2003	Act adopted by Council after consultation of Parliament		
22/12/2003	End of procedure in Parliament		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2003/0110(CNS)
Procedure type	CNS - Consultation procedure
Procedure subtype	Legislation
Legislative instrument	Decision
Legal basis	EC Treaty (after Amsterdam) EC 308; Rules of Procedure EP 57
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	AFET/5/19677

Documentation gateway					
Legislative proposal		COM(2003)0280	27/05/2003	EC	Summary
Committee draft report		PE329.328	01/10/2003	EP	
Committee opinion	BUDG	PE331.961/DEF	03/11/2003	EP	
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading		A5-0384/2003	04/11/2003	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading		T5-0513/2003 OJ C 087 07.04.2004, p. 0408-0480 E	20/11/2003	EP	Summary

Additional information	
European Commission	EUR-Lex

Final act
Decision 2003/911 OJ L 342 30.12.2003, p. 0053-0057 Summary

Relations EU/non-industrialised regions: grants to specialised bodies, action programme 2004-2006

PURPOSE : to establish a basic instrument for awarding, operating grants to bodies active in promoting reciprocal understanding of relations between the EU and certain non-industrialised regions in the world, for a period of three years (2004-2006). **CONTENT** : the Community implements a policy of financial, economic and technical cooperation with various parts of the world. Several institutions have for a number of years been receiving operating grants under chapter A 30 of the general budget of the European Communities. The adoption of Council Regulation 1605/2002/EC on the Financial Regulation applicable to the general budget of the European Communities and the Commission decision to move to Activity Based Budgeting (ABB) both involve establishing basic instruments for a number of grants. Accordingly, the objective of this proposal is to establish a basic instrument for awarding grants to the above-mentioned organisations. The activities to be financed under this basic instrument are those that increase understanding and dialogue concerning relations between the European Union and the regions concerned, via inter alia: -study and analysis of the policies of the EU and the region concerned, -the production of discussion documents, -the organisation of round tables and/or thematic seminars, - various publications. The grant beneficiaries must be selected by means of a call for proposals. Until now the Budget Authority has asked for the recipients of such grants to be named in the titles of the budget headings. For recipients to be named in the basic instrument, the qualifications of the body must make it the only possible choice but, given the type of recipients awarded grants until now, the conditions are not being met. The amounts provided for are based on the amount granted under the 2003 budget of the European Communities for lines A-3031, A-3033, A-3034 and A-3039. It is proposed to maintain the same amount of EUR 1 353 000 per year. With regard to the legal base, the operations covered by this Decision are not cooperation measures falling directly under the policies of development cooperation or cooperation with other third countries and yet are necessary to achieve one of the Community's objectives. For the adoption of this Decision, therefore, the Treaty does not provide powers of action other than those laid down in Article 308 EC.?

Relations EU/non-industrialised regions: grants to specialised bodies, action programme 2004-2006

This document consists of proposal for basic acts for grants currently covered by the Commission administrative autonomy (Part A of the budget) i.e. CNS/2003/0110 et 116 and COD/2003/0109, 0113, 0114 and 0115. The report highlights that a number of grants have for many years been financed on the basis of appropriations entered in part A (administrative appropriations) of the Commission section of the budget (section III). The main reason why they were located in that section was that there were no basic acts allowing them to be classified as operational appropriations. Their inclusion in part A means that they may be regarded as Commission administrative expenditure, which does not require basic acts for its implementation. Similarly, a number of grants are financed from Part B of the budget (operational appropriations) without being covered by a specific basic act. These grants are generally entered in Chapter B3-30 and thus do not require a basic act because of institutional prerogatives in the field of information. Lastly, there are a number of grants that were temporarily attached to existing basic acts, i.e. the grants relating to the Platform of European Social NGOs. Most of these grants have a common aim, namely to strengthen organisations or promote action that reinforces the European message. They are, however, applied in very different areas of activity governed by different Treaty provisions. Once it was decided to base the construction of the Commission budget on Activity-based Budgeting (ABB), which is now enshrined in Article 41 of the Financial Regulation, it became clear that there was a need to adopt proposals for basic instruments for part A grants that had none. The Commission accordingly undertook a review of the budget appropriations that should be regarded as administrative and those that were operational. Some expenditure currently classified as operational appropriations, such as the BA lines or the administrative part of the research appropriations (B6), has been placed in the administrative part of the budget (Chapter 01). Conversely, some expenditure, such as the Part A grants, which had been regarded as "administrative", has been reclassified as operational appropriations. However, Article 49(2) of the new Financial Regulation provides that, with the exception of institutional prerogatives, pilot projects, preparatory measures and the administrative appropriations for each institution, all operational expenditure requires a basic act in order to be implemented. Therefore, it was accordingly necessary to propose establishing basic acts for the grants currently in Part A. Each basic act, whether providing for operating grants or grants for actions, takes the form of funding for a programme covering a period of 2 to 6 years. Where an act is related to a Treaty article involving codecision, the Commission proposes that the Council and Parliament adopt the total funding required for the programme throughout its life, in accordance with the rules in Article 33 of the Interinstitutional Agreement of 6 May 1999 on improving the budgetary procedure. The adoption of basic acts will not alter the headings of the financial perspective to which the funding of the grants is attached, at least until expiry of the current financial perspective in 2006. In principle, the basic acts should therefore be adopted by the legislature in order to be applicable by 2004. In the event of failure to achieve that objective, the Commission will propose transitional derogations enabling grants to be awarded in 2004, pending adoption of the basic acts.?

Relations EU/non-industrialised regions: grants to specialised bodies, action programme 2004-2006

The committee adopted the report by Lennart SACRÉDEUS (EPP-ED, S) amending the proposal under the consultation procedure: - the action programme should help to promote "dialogue of cultures and civilisations and the universal value of human rights"; - the activities funded should include "reinforcing social, cultural and human partnership"; - on cofinancing, the operating grants awarded should cover up to 80% (rather than 70% as proposed by the Commission) of an organisation's eligible expenditure; - degressivity (the requirement that grants be progressively reduced) should apply at a rate of 2.5% from the third year onward, whereas the Commission was proposing that a grant be at least 10% lower than in the preceding year; - the programme should last for 5 years rather than 3 years (ending on 31 December 2008 instead of 31 December 2006 as proposed), and the Commission's assessment report should therefore be presented at the end of 2007 rather than at the end of 2005; - the Commission should report to Parliament as well as to the Council on the achievement of the programme's objectives and should inform Parliament of the criteria used (priority themes and types of activities) before it issued a call for proposals.?

Relations EU/non-industrialised regions: grants to specialised bodies, action programme 2004-2006

The European Parliament adopted a resolution drafted by Lennart SACREDEUS (EPP-ED, S) and made some amendments to the proposal. (Please see the document dated 04/11/03.) Parliament added that in order to award the grants, the Commission must publish calls for proposals. However, the Commission might award these grants without publication of a call for proposals when the budget heading names a beneficiary explicitly. The same applies when the budget identifies beneficiaries and the amounts allocated to each of them, if the total amount of the budget line concerned is entirely pre-assigned by the budgetary authority.?

Relations EU/non-industrialised regions: grants to specialised bodies, action programme 2004-2006

PURPOSE : to establish a basic instrument for awarding, operating grants to bodies active in promoting reciprocal understanding of relations between the EU and certain non-industrialised regions in the world, for a period of three years (2004-2006).

LEGISLATIVE ACT : Council Decision 2003/911/EC establishing a Community action programme for bodies promoting reciprocal understanding of relations between the European Union and certain regions in the world

CONTENT : this Decision establishes a Community action programme for the promotion of centres, institutes and networks specialising in the analysis of relations between the European Union and certain regions. The general objective of this programme is to increase understanding and dialogue between the EU and the regions covered by the ALA, MEDA, TACIS and CARDS Regulations and the candidate countries through support to the activities of certain bodies. These activities will consist of the annual work programme of a centre, institute or network and will be in keeping with those described in the Annex to the Decision.

Activities: The activities of bodies that may help to reinforce and increase the effectiveness of Community action will include the following: study and analysis of the policies of the European Union and of the region targeted by the call for proposal; production of discussion documents; round tables; thematic seminars; various publications.

Access to the programme: To qualify for a grant, an applicant body must meet certain requirements, inter alia, it must be an independent and non-profit making legal entity active chiefly in promoting understanding of relations between the EU and the regions concerned with an objective that serves the public good.

Participation: Participation in the programme will be open to bodies, institutes and networks established in: the Member States; countries whose accession to the European Union in 2004 was approved at the 2002 Copenhagen Summit; Bulgaria, Romania and Turkey; countries or regions covered by the ALA, MEDA, TACIS or CARDS Regulations.

Selection of beneficiaries: The grant beneficiaries must be selected by means of a call for proposals.

Award of the grant: The amount of an operating grant awarded may not exceed 70 % of the organisation's eligible expenditure for the calendar year for which the grant is awarded. Where such operating grants are renewed, they must be gradually decreased. If a grant is awarded to a body which received an operating grant the preceding year, the percentage of Community cofinancing represented by the new grant must be at least 10% lower than the preceding year.

Financial reference amount: The financial reference amount for the implementation of the programme, which starts on 1 January 2004 and ends on 31 December 2006, is EUR 4.1 million.

Monitoring and evaluation: By 31 December 2005 the Commission must report to the Council on the achievement of the objectives of the programme. The report will be based on the results obtained by the beneficiaries and must assess, in particular, their relevance, effectiveness and usefulness in achieving the objectives of the programme.

ENTRY INTO FORCE : 31/12/2003.