Procedure file

Basic information

COD - Ordinary legislative procedure (ex-codecision procedure) Decision	2003/0113(COD)	Procedure completed
European youth: grants to bodies active at European level, 2004-2006 action programme Subject 4.40.10 Youth 8.70.02 Financial regulations		

Key players

European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	CULT Culture, Youth, Education, Media and Sport		08/07/2003
		PSE PRETS Christa	
	Former committee responsible		
	CULT Culture, Youth, Education, Media and Sport		08/07/2003
		PSE PRETS Christa	
	Former committee for opinion		
	BUDG Budgets (Associated committee)		10/07/2003
		PSE DÜHRKOP DÜHRKOP Bárbara	
	CONT Budgetary Control	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
Council of the European Union	Council configuration	Meeting	Date
	Justice and Home Affairs (JHA)	2574	30/03/2004
	Environment	2556	22/12/2003
	Education, Youth, Culture and Sport	2545	24/11/2003
European Commission	Commission DG	Commissioner	
	Education, Youth, Sport and Culture		

Key events

27/05/2003	Legislative proposal published	COM(2003)0272	Summary
27/05/2003	Additional information		Summary
19/06/2003	Committee referral announced in Parliament, 1st reading		

20/10/2003	Vote in committee, 1st reading		Summary
20/10/2003	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading	A5-0358/2003	
05/11/2003	Debate in Parliament		
06/11/2003	Decision by Parliament, 1st reading	T5-0474/2003	Summary
22/12/2003	Council position published	15327/1/2003	Summary
15/01/2004	Committee referral announced in Parliament, 2nd reading		
19/02/2004	Vote in committee, 2nd reading		Summary
19/02/2004	Committee recommendation tabled for plenary, 2nd reading	A5-0075/2004	
09/03/2004	Debate in Parliament		
10/03/2004	Decision by Parliament, 2nd reading	T5-0161/2004	Summary
30/03/2004	Act approved by Council, 2nd reading		
21/04/2004	Final act signed		
21/04/2004	End of procedure in Parliament		
30/04/2004	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2003/0113(COD)
Procedure type	COD - Ordinary legislative procedure (ex-codecision procedure)
Procedure subtype	Legislation
Legislative instrument	Decision
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 57_o; EC Treaty (after Amsterdam) EC 149
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	CULT/5/20396

Documentation gateway

Legislative proposal		COM(2003)0272	27/05/2003	EC	Summary
Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report		CES1165/2003 OJ C 010 14.01.2004, p. 0018-0020	24/09/2003	ESC	
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading		A5-0358/2003	20/10/2003	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading		T5-0474/2003 OJ C 083 02.04.2004, p. 0017-0125 E	06/11/2003	EP	Summary
Council statement on its position		15977/2003	05/12/2003	CSL	
Council position		15327/1/2003 OJ C 072 23.03.2004, p. 0001-0009 E	22/12/2003	CSL	Summary

Commission communication on Council's position		COM(2004)0005	09/01/2004	EC	Summary
Committee recommendation tabled for plenary, 2nd reading		A5-0075/2004	19/02/2004	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, 2nd reading		T5-0161/2004 OJ C 102 28.04.2004, p. 0519-0572 E	10/03/2004	EP	Summary
Commission opinion on Parliament's position at 2nd reading		COM(2004)0212	23/03/2004	EC	Summary
Follow-up document		COM(2008)0398	26/06/2008	EC	Summary

Additional information

European Commission	EUR-Lex

Final act

Decision 2004/790
OJ L 138 30.04.2004, p. 0024-0030 Summary

European youth: grants to bodies active at European level, 2004-2006 action programme

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 financialperspective 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.?

European youth: grants to bodies active at European level, 2004-2006 action programme

PURPOSE : to give a legal basis to the Community action programme on youth. CONTENT : through various Council meetings, Commission Papers and Parliamentary resolutions, the European Union is committed to encouraging a youth movement. In particular the EU hopes to generate a better understanding of the EU amongst Europe's youth. For several years support for youth programmes have been provided under Budget headings A-3023 for the co-financing of operational cost of the European Union Youth Forum and heading A-3029, which provides support for international non-governmental youth organisations. This support has been provided without any legal basis. Rather, funding has flowed from the EU's budgetary headings and has come under the Commission's administrative expenditure. More recently, however, the adoption of a Council Regulation 1605/2002/EC on the Financial Regulation applicable to the general budget of the European Communities and the decision to base the structure of the Commission budget on the Activity Based Budgeting (ABB) approach requires that basic acts be adopted for grants hitherto financed under appropriations. This applies equally to those budget headings currently governing the EU's youth programmes. The purpose of this Decision is therefore to adopt an act providing a basis for operating grants to bodies active in the field of youth. It is proposed that funding should apply for a three year period, from 2004-2006. The proposal is based on Article 149 TEC, which provides that Community action shall be aimed, inter alia, at encouraging the development of youth exchanges and exchanges of

socio-educative importance. Since the proposal addresses the technical need to provide a legal basis for existing operations, the amount provided for is based on budgets, which have already been allocated through the EU's 2003 financial budget. The total amount proposed is EUR 11.52 million.?

European youth: grants to bodies active at European level, 2004-2006 action programme

The committee adopted the report by Christa PRETS (PES, A) amending the proposal under the 1st reading of the codecision procedure. It called for the programme to last for 5 years rather than 3 years on the grounds that it is one of seven new programmes which should all have the same duration in order to make a mid-term assessment of needs. MEPs also wanted the overall budget to be increased from EUR 11.52 million to EUR 13.17 million, so that the sums foreseen for Part 2 of the programme could be increased to reflect the impact of enlargement. They deleted the requirement in the Commission's proposal that grants awarded to international youth organisations be progressively reduced from the third year onwards, arguing that, under the rules on implementing the Financial Regulation, the principle of gradual reduction did not apply to such organisations since they are bodies "pursuing an objective of general European interest". The committee adopted a number of other amendments: - stipulating that one of the objectives must be that the beneficiary organisations contribute to "the active participation of young citizens in public life and in society"; - seeking to give a fuller and more exact description of the work and mission of non-governmental youth organisations and the European Youth Forum; - recommending that applicants should be given the opportunity to correct errors of form within a specified period after submitting the application; - calling on the Commission to submit a brief report to Parliament each year on the implementation of the programme. Lastly, in the interests of transparency, MEPs said that any beneficiary of a grant from the EU budget should indicate this in a prominent place such as a website homepage or an annual report.?

European youth: grants to bodies active at European level, 2004-2006 action programme

The European Parliament adopted a resolution drafted by Christa PRETS (PES, Austria), making several amendments to the Commission's proposal. For a summary of the main amendments, please refer to the document dated 20/10/03. It should be noted, however, that Parliament did not take up the committee amendment relating to the length of the programme, which now remains three years. In addition, the resources allocated to the European Youth Forum will be EUR 2.2 million, rather than EUR 2 million. ?

European youth: grants to bodies active at European level, 2004-2006 action programme

In its common position, the Council has approved the Commission's proposal in principle, while making certain amendments which it thought desirable. The Council adopted in full, in part or in essence 13 of the 20 amendments adopted by the Parliament at first reading. Concerning the amendments made by the Council to the Commission's proposal, these concern: - the budget has been set at EUR 13 million by the budgetary authority; - a standard article has been introduce to clarify the Commission's role in the implementation of the programme, which also refers to regular reporting by the Commission to the Council and the Parliament; - the specification of the beneficiaries : this section of the annex has been restructured to distinguish more clearly the two categories of beneficiaries: i) the European Youth Forum, which is a body pursuing an aim of general European interest and the recipient of a grant to support its permanent activities and ii) bodies pursuing an aim of general European interest in the field of youth which receive grants to support operational and administrative costs selected on the basis of calls for proposals. The Council has introduced other modifications or clarifications, as appropriate: - application of the Financial Regulation and its rules for implementation; - participation of countries outside the Union. In addition to the amendments not adopted by the Commission, and which were not accepted by the Council, the Council did not accept the amendments concerning: - financial provisions : since, in the case of this proposal, the final decision on the financial framework falls within the competence of the budgetary authority, this amendment was not accepted; - percentage of resources allocated to the European Youth Forum. The Council did not accept this amendment which modifies the percentage allocated to the European Youth Forum since this is linked to the overall budget of the programme; - degressivity and international youth organisations : the Council has not accepted that the principle of gradual reduction (degressivity) should not be applied to international youth organisations. The Council considers that its common position constitutes a balanced text, which will provide the necessary support for the activities of bodies in the field of youth over the period concerned, also in view of future Community action in this area.?

European youth: grants to bodies active at European level, 2004-2006 action programme

The Commission considers that the text of the common position is a good basis for a European Parliament and Council decision. The Commission agrees with the budgetary modification proposed by the Council. It also accepts the amendment on the obligation of the Commission to present a regular report to the Council and the European Parliament. However, in line with the agreement reached at the budget conciliation meeting on 24 November, transitional clauses covering the period before the approval of the legal base should be added to the basic act as follows: - For grants awarded in 2004, it will be possible for the period of eligibility of expenditure to start on 1 January 2004, provided that the expenditure does not precede the date on which the grant application was lodged or the date on which the beneficiary's budget year starts. During 2004, in the case of beneficiaries whose budgetary year starts before 1 March, an exception may be granted to the obligation to sign the grant agreement within the first four months of the start of the beneficiary's budget year, as referred to in Article 112, paragraph 2 of Council Regulation 1605/2002/EC, Euratom on the Financial Regulation applicable to the general budget of the European Communities. In this case, the grant agreement should be signed by 30 June 2004 at the latest.?

European youth: grants to bodies active at European level, 2004-2006 action programme

The committee adopted the report by Christa PRETS (PES, A) approving the Council's common position under the 2nd reading of the codecision procedure, subject to just one amendment. This introduced transitional provisions to take account of the fact that the act could not be adopted before the beginning of 2004. In this way, beneficiaries would be able to claim a grant for the totality of their eligible costs in 2004.?

European youth: grants to bodies active at European level, 2004-2006 action programme

The European Parliament adopted the resolution drafted by Christa PRETS (PES, A) and approved the common position subject to one amendment. (Please see the summary of 19/02/04.) To expand, for grants awarded in 2004, it will be possible for the period of eligibility of expenditure to start on 1 January 2004, provided that the expenditure does not precede the date on which the grant application was lodged or the date on which the beneficiary's budget year starts. During 2004, in the case of beneficiaries whose budgetary year starts before 1 March, an exception may be granted to the obligation to sign the grant agreement within the first four months of the start of the beneficiary's budget year. In this case, the grant agreement should be signed by 30 June 2004 at the latest.?

European youth: grants to bodies active at European level, 2004-2006 action programme

The Commission can accept the amendment to the Council's common position adopted by Parliament as it is in line with the Commission's (modified) proposal. The Commission notes the convergence of views between the three institutions on the general approach, structure and content of the community action to promote bodies active at European level in the field of youth.?

European youth: grants to bodies active at European level, 2004-2006 action programme

PURPOSE : to establish a Community action programme to promote bodies active at European level in the field of youth. LEGISLATIVE ACT : Decision 790/2004/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a Community action programme to promote bodies active at European level in the field of youth. CONTENT : Based on article 149, this Decision seeks to promote participation by young people in the exercise of active European citizenship through civil society. The programme will support the ongoing work programme activities of bodies active at European level in the field of youth. Their activities must contribute to the development of communities actions in the field of youth. Likewise, the programme will support the ongoing programme activities of the European Youth Forum, in so far as it represents and co-ordinates non-governmental youth organisations and relays information on youth to the European institutions This Decision establishes a Community action programme to promote bodies active at European level in the field of youth. The general objective of the programme is to support the activities of these bodies. These activities are the ongoing work programme of a body, which pursues an aim of general European interest in the field of youth or an objective forming part of the European Union's policy in this area. In particular, these activities must contribute, or be capable of contributing, to the active participation of young citizens in public life and in society and to the development and implementation of Community cooperation actions in the field of youth in the broad sense. Cooperation with the European Youth Forum contributes to this general objective in so far as the European Youth Forum represents and coordinates non-governmental youth organisations and relays information on youth to the European institutions. The programme shall start on 1 January 2004 and shall end on 31 December 2006. To be eligible for an operating grant, a body must satisfy the requirements of the Annex and have the following characteristics: - its activities must be in accordance with the principles underlying Community action in the youth policy area and take account of the priorities set out in the Annex; - it must have been legally established for more than one year; - it must operate at European level, either alone or in the form of various coordinated associations, and its structure and activities must have a potential impact throughout the Union or cover at least eight of the countries referred to in Article 3, including the Member States. Participation in actions under the programme may be opened to bodies established in: - acceding States which signed the Treaty of Accession on 16 April 2003; - the EFTA/EEA countries, in accordance with the conditions laid down in the EEA Agreement; - Romania and Bulgaria, the conditions for participation to be laid down in accordance with the European Agreements, their additional protocols and the decisions of the respective Association Councils; - Turkey, the conditions for participation to be laid down in accordance with the Framework Agreement between the European Community and the Republic of Turkey of 26 February 2002 on the general principles for the participation of the Republic ofTurkey in Community programmes. Participation in this programme may also be open to bodies established in the Balkan countries forming part of the Stabilisation and Association process for countries of South Eastern Europe and to some countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States, in accordance with the conditions and procedures to be agreed with these countries. The programme covers two types of beneficiaries: - group 1: operating grants shall be directly awarded to the beneficiaries referred to in point 2 of the Annex; - group 2: operating grants shall be awarded in accordance with the overall criteria laid down in the Annex by means of a call for proposals to the permanent activities of a body pursuing an aim of general European interest in the field of youth. The financial framework for the implementation of the programme is hereby set at EUR 13 million. The Commission shall be responsible for, and shall regularly inform the European Parliament, the Council and the Member States concerning, the implementation of this programme in accordance with the provisions set out in the annex. No later than 31 December 2007, the Commission shall present to the European Parliament and the Council a report on the achievement of the programme's objectives. This report shall be based, inter alia, on an external evaluation report which must be available no later than the end of 2006 and which shall appraise at least the overall pertinence and coherence of the programme, the effectiveness of its execution (preparation, selection, implementation of the actions) and the overall and individual effectiveness of the various actions in terms of achievement of the objectives set out in Article 1 and in the Annex. ENTRY INTO FORCE : 1 May 2004.?

European youth: grants to bodies active at European level, 2004-2006 action programme

The Commission presents the final evaluation of the "Youth" Community action programme (2000-2006) and of the Community action programme to promote bodies active at European level in the field of youth (2004-2006). The final evaluation of the "Youth" programme is based evaluation reports from the Member States and other participating countries, and a report drawn up by an external evaluation service.

Main findings: the "Youth" programme corresponded well to overall EU youth policy. It is considered to have been very successful in improving the sense of citizenship of the young participants, in particular in terms of attitude, communication and social skills. 90% of the participants in exchanges declare that they have become more tolerant. The programme effectively strengthened participants' feeling of belonging to the EU.

Participation in the programme affects the employability of young people, particularly young volunteers. 62% of volunteers report an influence on their professional career. However, the programme was only moderately successful in reaching out to young people with fewer opportunities. The participants generally have a high level of education. The programme was effective in terms of gender equality.

Among youth workers, the programme created greater awareness of the intercultural dimension and contact with new working methods. 91% of youth workers who participated in the programme report added value over other training which they have received. However, greater attention to the needs of youth workers would increase the practical use of the knowledge acquired.

While the funding allocated to the decentralised parts of the programme is generally considered to be appropriate, around 50% of the national authorities and the national agencies (NAs) deem it necessary to increase the budget earmarked for youth exchanges and around 33% want to see an increase in the budget for accompanying measures. The external evaluators consider that more funding should be allocated to the functioning of the national agencies to develop activities such as their advisory role, important if project submission procedures are to be kept from having a negative effect on the accessibility of the programme.

The main recommendations are as follows:

- ensure the greater inclusion of young people with fewer opportunities: the Commission has developed an inclusion strategy to increase the participation of more disadvantaged young people; their involvement is identified as an award criterion for the actions concerned;
- ensure more involvement of young people in the preparation of projects: participants should be involved in preparing the projects more often. Offering training focused on the preparation, organisation and implementation of projects would support this objective;
- provide better support for youth workers: improved evaluation of the needs of training providers is recommended The Commission will take account of this recommendation in its reflections on the SALTOs (Support, Advanced Learning and Training Opportunities) and will examine how to ensure better consultation of youth workers on the format, content, methodology, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the training courses;
- improve support for promoters: the Commission has reasserted the "supportive approach" principle, through which the national agencies provide assistance to the promoters, so that the programme is accessible to as many people as possible and achieves the aim of being open to young people with fewer opportunities;
- strengthen the efficiency of NGO and European Youth Forum (EYF) action: reports on the activities of the NGOs and the EYF should focus on the measurement and evaluation of practical details;
- improve project monitoring: the Commission will develop a strategy for the continuous evaluation of the programme, identifying indicators to be monitored. It has undertaken to improve the IT tools which the NAs are required to use;
- raise the profile of the programme: the Commission is developing an information strategy to make the programme more widely known;
- more resources for the NAs: some NAs lack the means to offer sufficient support for promoters. The Commission, while taking care to limit the administrative costs of the programme, will examine how to act on this recommendation when preparing the 2009 budget;
- accelerate the disbursement of funding to the NAs: it is recommended that the Commission disburse funds to the NAs without delay;
- re-examine the activities of the SALTOs: the SALTOs are generally considered to be appropriate structures, although certain aspects should be reviewed. The Commission will think about adjustments which should be made;
- re-examine the activities of the Eurodesks: although the Eurodesks are generally considered to be efficient, there are doubts concerning the added value which they bring to the programme. A review of their activities would make their work more relevant. The Commission agrees to this recommendation, although it points out that the usefulness of the Eurodesks is not determined solely by the information they provide on the programme.