

**Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and the Council extending and amending
Council Regulation (EC) No 1659/98 on decentralised cooperation**

(2002/C 51 E/11)

COM(2001) 576 final — 2001/0243(COD)

(Submitted by the Commission on 23 October 2001)

THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL OF THE
EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European
Community, and in particular Article 179(1) thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the Commission,

Acting in accordance with the procedure laid down in Article
251 of the Treaty,

Whereas:

- (1) Council Regulation (EC) No 1659/98 of 17 July 1998 on
decentralised cooperation is applicable until 31 December
2001 ⁽¹⁾.
- (2) The above Regulation should be extended until 31
December 2003 and the financial allocation and reference
period indicated in Article 4(1) adjusted.
- (3) Regulation (EC) No 1659/98 should be amended
accordingly,

HAVE ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

Article 1

Regulation (EC) No 1659/98 is hereby amended as follows:

1. Article 4(1) is replaced by the following:

‘1. Community financing of the operations referred to in
Article 1 shall cover a period of five years (1999 to 2003).
The financial allocation for the implementation of this
programme for the period 1999 to 2003 shall be EUR 24
million. The annual appropriations shall be authorised by
the budgetary authority within the limits of the financial
perspective.’

2. Article 9 is replaced by the following:

‘1. Every two years, in accordance with the procedure
referred to in Article 8(2) and (3), the Commission shall
adopt strategic guidelines and priorities for the implemen-

tation of operations in the years ahead. It shall inform the
European Parliament thereof.

2. The programming of aid provided pursuant to this
Regulation shall, as far as possible, closely complement
and be consistent with aid provided under other
Community development cooperation instruments and
take particular account of the cooperation strategy with
the country or region concerned.’

3. The first two subparagraphs of Article 10 are replaced by
the following:

‘As part of the annual report to the Council and Parliament
on the implementation of development policy, the
Commission shall present a summary of the operations
financed and an evaluation of the implementation of this
Regulation during the year, as well as details of the decen-
tralised cooperation actors with whom contracts have been
concluded.’

4. Article 12 is replaced by the following:

‘Eight months at least before this Regulation expires, the
Commission shall submit to the European Parliament and
the Council an overall assessment of the operations financed
by the Community under this Regulation, accompanied by
suggestions concerning the future of this Regulation.’

5. The second subparagraph of Article 13 is replaced by the
following:

‘It shall apply until 31 December 2003.’

Article 2

This Regulation shall enter into force on the third day
following that of its publication in the *Official Journal of the
European Communities*.

This Regulation shall be binding in its entirety and directly
applicable in all Member States.

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 213, 30.7.1998, p. 6.