

III

(Notices)

COMMISSION

Commission communication — Community action in the field of public health (2003 to 2008)**Work plan 2004 including the annual work programme for grants**

(2004/C 52/05)

(Text with EEA relevance)

- (1) In accordance with Decision No 1786/2002/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 September 2002, a programme of Community action in the field of public health (2003-2008) was adopted.
- (2) In accordance with Article 8 of the programme, the Commission is required to adopt an annual plan of work for the implementation of the programme, setting out priorities and actions to be undertaken, including allocation of resources.
- (3) By Decision C(2003) 690 of 10 March 2003 ⁽¹⁾ the Commission adopted an annual work plan 2003 for the implementation of the programme, amended on 17 December 2003 by Commission Decision C(2003) 4701.
- (4) The purpose of this Decision is to adopt a work plan for 2004 in the field of public health:
 - (a) In implementing the programme, the first two annual work plans shall have a broad approach to ensure the development of the foundations through the action areas of the programme. A number of multi-annual projects are currently being established and will only prove their value later in the programme. The setting-up of a thorough system of indicators is necessary to provide an overview of work accomplished in each action area of the programme in the form of statistics, projects pursued and deliverables. This should also provide a tool for progress evaluation and cost-effectiveness.
 - (b) Once the elements above are established, a more detailed implementation plan can be drawn up, enabling a more focused approach and a greater degree of responsiveness to developing concerns. When drafting the future work plans, emerging political priorities as well as the results of the previous calls for proposals will be taken into account.
- (5) A mid-term evaluation, also using external evaluators, shall be carried out after the first three years of the programme's lifecycle to provide information on process efficiency, outputs and outcomes. An analysis on the success rate in pursuing aims and objectives in the different strands of action will also enable identification of key priority action areas for the second half of the programme.
- (6) Two additional financing decisions shall be taken on the current year 2004:
 - (a) The first one will be related to the calls for tenders financed under the administrative and operational credits and to the support expenditure for operations of policy on the area of Public Health. At this stage, the details of the different calls for tenders and the details of the support expenditure is not yet available.
 - (b) The second one will be related to the administrative credits allocated to the Executive Agency 'Public Health', as soon as the decision of creation of this Executive Agency is adopted.
- (7) In accordance with Article 8 of Decision No 1786/2002/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, the measures provided in this decision have been approved by the Programme Committee on 9 October 2003.
- (8) The Commission is hereby requested to adopt the decision in annex on the 2004 work plan and on the budget impact statement.
- (9) In accordance with Article 166(1), of the Commission Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 2342/2002 of 23 December 2002 ⁽²⁾ laying down detailed rules for the implementation of Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002 on the Financial Regulation applicable to the general budget of the European Communities ⁽³⁾, once adopted by the College, the 2004 work plan will be published on the internet.

⁽¹⁾ OJ C 62, 15.3.2003.

⁽²⁾ OJ L 357, 31.12.2002.

⁽³⁾ OJ L 248, 16.9.2002.