Proposal for a Council Decision on the position to be taken by the Community within the Association Council established by the Europe Agreement between the European Communities and their Member States, on the one part, and the Slovak Republic, of the other part with regard to the establishment of a Joint Consultative Committee by the EU-Slovak Association Council

(2000/C 337 E/13)


(Submitted by the Commission on 9 June 2000)

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing a European Community, the Treaty establishing a European Coal and Steel Community and the Treaty establishing a European Atomic Energy Community (Euratom),

Having regard in particular to Article 300 EC paragraph 2, second subparagraph and paragraph 3, first subparagraph,

Having regard to Article 2(1) of the Council and Commission Decision of 19 December 1994 on the conclusion of the Europe Agreement establishing an Association between the European Communities and their Member States, of the one part, and the Slovak Republic, of the other part,

Having regard to the Commission proposal,

Having regard to the opinion of the European Parliament,

Whereas:

(1) Article 109 of the said Europe Agreement provides that the Association Council may decide to set up any special committee or body that can assist it in carrying out its duties.

(2) Dialogue and cooperation between economic and social interest groups in the European Union and the Slovak Republic can make a major contribution to the full implementation of the Europe Agreement.

(3) It seems appropriate that such cooperation should be between the members of the Economic and Social Committee of the European Communities and the Slovak Republic's economic and social partners,

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

The position to be adopted by the Community within the Association Council established by the Europe Agreement between the European Communities and their Member States, of the one part, and the Slovak Republic, of the other part, in relation to the establishment of a Joint Consultative Committee shall be based on the draft decision of the said Association Council which is annexed to the present decision.

ANNEX

Draft Decision No .../1999 of the Association Council Association between the European Communities and their Member States, of the one part, and the Slovak Republic, of the other part, of ... 1999 amending, through the setting-up of a Joint Consultative Committee, Decision No 1/95 establishing the rules of procedure of the Association Council

THE ASSOCIATION COUNCIL,

HAVING REGARD to the Europe Agreement establishing an association between the European Communities and their Member States, of the one part, and the Slovak Republic, of the other part, and in particular Article 109 thereof,

WHEREAS dialogue and cooperation between economic and social interest groups in the European Union and the Slovak Republic can make a major contribution to the development of EU-Slovak relations,

WHEREAS it seems appropriate that such cooperation be organised between the members of the Economic and Social Committee of the European Communities and the Slovak Republic's economic and social partners, by the setting up of a Joint Consultative Committee,

WHEREAS this means that the rules of procedure of the Association Council, adopted by Decision 1/95, have to be amended accordingly,
HAS ADOPTED THE FOLLOWING DECISION:

Article 1

The following rules shall be added to the rules of procedure of the Association Council:

Article 16

**Joint Consultative Committee**

A Joint Consultative Committee is hereby established with the task of promoting dialogue and cooperation between the economic and social interest groups in the European Union and the Slovak Republic. Such dialogue and cooperation shall encompass all economic and social aspects of relations between the European Union and the Slovak Republic, as they arise in the context of the implementation of the Europe Agreement. The Joint Consultative Committee shall express its views on questions arising in these areas.

Article 17

The Joint Consultative Committee shall comprise four representatives of the Economic and Social Committee of the European Communities and four representatives of the Slovak Republic's economic and social interest groups.

The Joint Consultative Committee shall carry out its activities on the basis of consultation by the Association Council or on its own initiative.

Members shall be chosen to ensure that the Joint Consultative Committee is as faithful a reflection as possible of the various economic and social interest groups in both the European Union and the Slovak Republic.

The Joint Consultative Committee shall be co-chaired by a member of the Economic and Social Committee of the European Communities and a Slovak member.

The Joint Consultative Committee shall adopt its own Rules of Procedure.

Article 18

The Economic and Social Committee of the European Communities, on the one hand, and the Slovak economic and social interest groups, on the other hand, shall each defray the expenses they incur by reason of their participation in the meetings for the Committee and of its working groups with regard to staff, travel and subsistence expenditure and to postal and telecommunications expenditure.

Expenditure in connection with interpreting at meetings, translation and reproduction of documents shall be borne by the Economic and Social Committee, with the exception of Slovak expenditure in connection with interpreting or translation into or from Slovak, which shall be borne by the Slovak economic and social interest groups.

Other expenditure relating to the material organisation of meetings shall be borne by the party which hosts the meetings.

Article 2

This Decision shall enter into force on the first day of the second month following the date of its adoption.