

## II

*(Preparatory Acts)*

## COMMISSION

**Proposal for a Council Decision adopting the second phase of the Trans-European Cooperation Scheme for Higher Education (Tempus II) (1994-1998)**

(92/C 311/01)

COM (92) 407 final

*(submitted by the Commission on 1 October 1992)*

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community, and in particular Article 235 thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the Commission,

Having regard to the opinion of the European Parliament,

Having regard to the opinion of the Economic and Social Committee,

Whereas the Council adopted on 18 December 1989 Regulation (EEC) No 3906/89 <sup>(1)</sup> on economic aid to the Republic of Hungary and the Polish People's Republic, as last amended by (EEC) No 3800/91 of 23 December 1991 <sup>(2)</sup>, which provides for aid to support the process of economic and social reform in central and eastern European countries in areas including training;

Whereas experience gained in the management of the *Phare* programme of aid to central and eastern Europe points to the need to adapt and further diversify forms of assistance according to national needs and priorities for structural reform and to adopt where possible a multiannual approach to the programming of aid;

Whereas the countries of central and eastern Europe have recognised the importance of higher education in the

context of aid measures for their current process of economic and social reform and have accorded priority to the development of the university sector through cooperation with the European Community;

Whereas Poland, Hungary and Czechoslovakia have signed association agreements <sup>(3)</sup> with the Community which specify that the *Tempus* Scheme provides a framework for cooperation in the field of education and training;

Whereas cooperation in higher education is conducive to closer economic and cultural relations between the different peoples of Europe;

Whereas the experience and expertise gained within the Community in the areas particularly of inter-university cooperation and student exchange as well as of industry-university cooperation have been drawn on to develop cooperation and mobility between the Community and the countries of central and eastern Europe in the field of higher education as well as to promote mutually beneficial contacts in the field of education and training;

Whereas in its Decision 90/233/EEC <sup>(4)</sup>, as amended by Decision 92/240/EEC <sup>(5)</sup>, the Council established a Trans-European Mobility Scheme for University Studies

<sup>(1)</sup> OJ No L 375, 23. 12. 1989, p. 11.

<sup>(2)</sup> OJ No L 357, 28. 12. 1991, p. 10.

<sup>(3)</sup> Europe Agreements, signed 16. 12. 1991.

<sup>(4)</sup> OJ No L 131, 23. 5. 1990, p. 21.

<sup>(5)</sup> OJ No L 122, 7. 5. 1992, p. 43.

(Tempus), within a perspective of five years, for an initial pilot phase of four years beginning on 1 July 1990;

Whereas Article 11 of Decision 90/233/EEC provides that before 31 December 1992, the Commission shall submit to the Council, the European Parliament and the Economic and Social Committee an interim report, including the results of the evaluation as well as a proposal for the continuation or adaptation of *Tempus* as a whole beyond the initial pilot phase;

Whereas the results of the evaluation of the first year and a half of the pilot phase, carried out in accordance with Article 11, have confirmed that, for each country concerned, the objectives of *Tempus* should be more clearly targetted whether on the long-term reform of higher education or on the shorter term needs of economic restructuring;

Whereas the competent authorities in the countries of central and eastern Europe have expressed positive views on *Tempus* and will in future take account of the evaluation in defining their priorities for Phare assistance and their particular strategy and needs in the context of the *Tempus* Scheme;

Whereas the Council adopted on 15 July 1991 Regulation (EEC, Euratom) No 2157/91 concerning the provision of technical assistance to economic reform and recovery in the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics <sup>(1)</sup>;

Whereas the Ministers of Education of certain Republics of the former Soviet Union have expressed their wish to participate in *Tempus* as an appropriate instrument for the transformation of their higher education systems in the context of economic reform and recovery and that the first three years of the implementation of the *Tempus* Scheme have generated appropriate experience and insight into the problems of higher education transformation which are directly relevant for these Republics;

Whereas there exist in the Community and in third countries regional and/or national, public and/or private facilities which can be called upon to assist in the effective provision of financial support in the area of training at higher education level;

Whereas the Treaty does not provide, for the action concerned, powers other than those of Article 235,

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

#### Article 1

##### Duration of Tempus II

The second phase of the Trans-European Cooperation Scheme for Higher Education (hereinafter referred to as 'Tempus II') is hereby adopted for a period of four years as of 1 July 1994.

#### Article 2

##### Eligible countries

*Tempus II* shall concern the countries of central and eastern Europe designated as eligible for economic aid by Regulation (EEC) No 3906/89 and the Republics of the former Soviet Union as defined in Regulation (EEC, Euratom) No 2157/91. These countries shall be referred to hereinafter as 'the eligible countries'. Participation shall be decided by the national authorities in agreement with the Commission in the context of the national programming of Community assistance for economic reform.

#### Article 3

##### Definitions

In the context of *Tempus II*:

- a) the term 'university' shall be used to cover all types of post-secondary educational and vocational training establishments which offer, where appropriate within the framework of advanced education and training, qualifications or diplomas of that level, whatever such establishments may be called;
- b) the terms 'industry' and 'enterprise' shall be used to indicate all types of economic activity, whatever their legal status, public and local authorities, independent economic organizations, chambers of commerce and industry and/or their equivalents, professional associations, organizations representing employers or employees, as well as private training bodies of the above mentioned institutions and organizations.

#### Article 4

##### Objectives

In the broader context of economic and social reform, the objectives of *Tempus II* are the following:

- a) to promote the structural development and to facilitate the adaptation of higher education systems in the eligible countries, in particular through cooperation and interaction with partners in the Member States of

(1) OJ No L 201, 24. 7. 1991, p. 2.

- the European Community taking into consideration the priorities laid down by each of the eligible countries;
- b) to help address specific manpower and skill shortages during economic reform and
  - c) to promote exchanges of young people between the Community and the eligible countries.

In realising the objectives of the *Tempus II* Scheme the Commission shall ensure respect of the Community's general policy on equal opportunity for men and women. The same shall apply for disadvantaged groups, such as handicapped. In addition, account shall be taken of the need to ensure that as many regions as possible are able to participate in the Scheme.

#### Article 5

##### Committee

1. The Commission shall implement the *Tempus II* Scheme according to the national strategy and choice of objectives worked out with the competent authorities in each participating country on the basis of the provisions of the Annex and on the basis of detailed guidelines to be adopted annually.

2. In the performance of that task, the Commission shall be assisted by an advisory committee composed of two representatives appointed by each Member State and at least one of whom shall be drawn from the academic community. The committee shall be chaired by the Commission representative. The members of the committee may be assisted by experts or advisers.

The committee shall, in particular, assist the Commission in the implementation of the scheme having regard to the objectives set out in Article 4 and shall coordinate work with that of other committees covering the same field as *Tempus II*.

3. The Commission representative shall submit to the committee drafts of measures concerning:

- a) the general guidelines governing *Tempus II*;
- b) the general guidelines on the financial assistance to be provided by the Community (amounts, duration and recipients of assistance);
- c) questions relating to the overall balance of *Tempus II*, including the breakdown between the various actions;
- d) questions relating to the priority areas for support;
- e) arrangements for the monitoring and evaluation of *Tempus II*.

4. The committee shall deliver its opinion on these draft measures within a time limit which the chairman may lay down according to the urgency of the matter, if necessary by taking a vote.

The opinion shall be recorded in the minutes; in addition, each Member State shall have the right to ask to have its position recorded in the minutes.

5. The Commission shall take the utmost account of the opinion delivered by the committee. It shall inform the committee of the manner in which its opinion has been taken into account.

#### Article 6

##### Cooperation with the relevant agencies

1. The Commission shall cooperate with appropriate agencies in each of the eligible countries, designated or set up to coordinate the links and structures necessary for the effective implementation of *Tempus II*, including the allocation of funds made available by the eligible countries themselves.

2. The Commission shall also cooperate closely in the implementation of *Tempus II* with the relevant national bodies designated by the Member States.

#### Article 7

##### Links with other Community actions

The Commission, in accordance with the procedure set out in Article 5 paragraph 3 of this Decision, and, where appropriate, with the procedure set out in Article 9 of Regulation (EEC) No 3906/89, shall ensure consistency and, where necessary, complementarity between *Tempus II* and other actions at Community level, both within the Community and in assistance to the eligible countries, with particular reference to the activities of the European Training Foundations.

#### Article 8

##### Coordination with actions of third countries

1. The Commission shall ensure the appropriate coordination with actions developed by countries which are not members of the Community or by universities and enterprises or other institutions or bodies in these countries which relate to the same field of action as *Tempus II*, including, where appropriate, participation in *Tempus II* projects.

2. Such involvement can take various forms, including one or more of the following:

- participation in *Tempus II* projects via co-financing,
- use of *Tempus II* facilities for the channelling of bilaterally-funded exchange actions,

- coordination with *Tempus II* of those nationally-based initiatives which are related to the same aims but which are financed and run separately,
- reciprocal exchange of information on all relevant initiatives in this field,
- provision of funds at national level for *Tempus II* participation.

*Article 9*

**Annual report**

An annual report on the functioning of *Tempus II* shall be submitted by the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, and the Economic and Social Committee.

*Article 10*

**Monitoring and evaluation arrangements — reports**

The Commission shall, in accordance with the procedure set out in Article 5, paragraph 3, establish arrangements for the monitoring and evaluation of the experience acquired in the implementation of *Tempus II*, taking into account the particular objectives set out in Article 4.

It shall submit an interim report, including the results of the evaluation, before 30 April 1996, as well as possibly a proposal for the continuation or adaptation of *Tempus* for the period beginning from 1 July 1998.

A final report shall be presented by the Commission by 30 June 1999.

## ANNEX

**Joint European Projects**

1. The Community will provide support for Joint European Projects of maximum three years' duration linking universities and/or enterprises in eligible countries with partners in the Community.

Joint European Projects will comprise at least one university from an eligible country, one university from a Member State and one partner institution (university or enterprise) from another Member State.

Such projects may be linked, as appropriate, to existing networks, notably those funded in the framework of the Erasmus, Comett and Lingua programmes, or to the other assistance programmes focused on related aspects of economic and social reform.

2. Joint European Project grants may be awarded for a wide range of activities according to the specific needs of the institutions concerned and according to the priorities laid down, including:
  - i) cooperative education and training actions, notably curricular development and overhaul, the development of universities' capacities to provide continuing education and retraining, the provision of short, intensive courses and the development of open and distance learning capability;
  - ii) the structural reform and development of higher education, notably via the restructuring of existing higher education institutions, the upgrading of facilities, and, where appropriate, the provision of technical and financial assistance to education authorities;
  - iii) the promotion of university/industry cooperation in the eligible states via the development of universities' capacities to cooperate with industry and cooperative university/industry training actions;
  - iv) equipment necessary for the implementation of a Joint European Project;
  - v) the development of student and staff mobility within the framework of Joint European Projects;
  - vi) regional activities involving two or more eligible countries;
  - vii) other actions answering specific needs identified in the eligible states.

3. *Mobility within Joint European Projects*

Within the framework of Joint European Projects the Community will provide support for student and staff mobility as follows:

- i) grants will be awarded to students, up to and including at doctorate level and will be available both to students from the eligible countries carrying out periods of study in the Community and to students from the Community spending study periods in the eligible countries. Grants will be normally awarded for a period of between three months and one year;
- ii) for students participating in Joint European Projects whose specific aim is to foster mobility, priority will be given to students participating in projects where the period of study spent abroad will be granted full recognition by the student's home university;
- iii) for teaching/administrative staff at universities or trainers from enterprises in Member States to carry out teaching/training assignments for periods from one week to one year in eligible countries and *vice versa*;
- iv) for teaching/administrative staff at universities in the eligible countries to undertake retraining and updating periods in the Community;
- v) support for industrial or practical placements of one month to one year for teachers, trainers, students and graduates between the end of their studies and first employment from the eligible countries to undertake a practical training period in enterprises in the Community and vice-versa;
- vi) all types of mobility grant will include support for linguistic preparation where necessary.

### Individual Grants and Complementary Activities

1. The Community will also provide support for individual grants to teachers, trainers, university administrators, senior Ministry officials, education planners and other training experts for a number of activities, notably:
  - i) short visits of one week to two months to a Member State or an eligible country designed to prepare Joint European Projects, prepare teaching materials, collect and disseminate information, exchange expert advice and increase mutual understanding of the higher education/training systems concerned;
  - ii) teaching/training assignments in universities in the Community and in the eligible states for periods of one week to one year;
  - iii) practical placements in enterprises or education authorities in the Community or in the eligible states for periods of one month to one year;
  - iv) retraining and updating for university staff from the eligible states in the Community for periods from one week to one year.
2. Grants will be made available to enable eligible countries to participate in the activities of European associations, notably university associations.
3. Support will be provided to facilitate publications and other information activities directly relevant to supporting the development and renewal of the higher education systems of the eligible countries.
4. Support will be provided for activities (in particular technical assistance, training and studies) designed to assist in the reform and development of higher education and training systems in the eligible countries.
5. Support will be provided to projects involving youth activities as well as exchanges of young people and youth organisers between Member States and eligible countries.

### Support Activities

1. The necessary technical assistance will be provided to the Commission to underpin the activities undertaken in accordance with the Decision, including the coordination of monitoring procedures.
  2. Support will be provided for appropriate evaluation of the Tempus II Scheme.
-