

Opinion on the proposal for a Council Decision amending Decision 90/233/EEC of 7 May 1990 establishing a trans-European mobility scheme for university studies (Tempus)

(92/C 98/02)

On 22 January 1992 the Council decided to consult the Economic and Social Committee, under Article 235 of the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community, on the abovementioned proposal.

The Section for Social, Family, Educational and Cultural Affairs, which was responsible for preparing the Committee's work on the subject, adopted its Opinion on 14 February 1992. The Rapporteur was Mr Nierhaus.

At its 294th Plenary Session (meeting of 26 February 1992), the Economic and Social Committee adopted the following Opinion unanimously.

1. General comments

1.1. Council Decision 90/233/EEC of 7 May 1990 approved the establishment of a trans-European mobility scheme for university studies (Tempus) as part of the Phare Programme of economic assistance to Central and Eastern European countries.

1.2. In its Opinion of 25 April 1990 (doc. ESC 506/90) the Economic and Social Committee endorsed Tempus, whose activities are concentrated on universities, university teachers and students, and offered some further suggestions.

1.3. Tempus was established for an initial pilot phase of three years and has already financed measures covering the 1990/1991 and 1991/1992 academic years. An interim report is to be submitted by the end of 1992 and a final report by December 1995 (Art. 11 of the Tempus Decision).

1.4. In the meantime the Commission has entrusted the evaluation of the Tempus Programme to an outside body which will be unable to present its findings before June 1992 at the earliest.

2. Specific comments

2.1. To ensure the continuity of the Programme and that the measures provided for in Tempus are implemented efficiently, arrangements for the 1993 academic year must be made as early as possible in 1992.

2.2. However, as the evaluation results and the ensuing interim report, on which a final decision is to be based, will not be available before the deadline laid down in Article 11 of the Tempus Decision, there will not be sufficient time to plan for 1993/1994.

2.3. Hence the Commission proposes a one-year extension of the present three-year initial pilot phase.

2.4. The Committee fully endorses this extension, especially as the annual report on Tempus activities from 1 May 1990 to 31 July 1991—submitted on time by the Commission—shows that existing and planned measures are commensurate with the objective of Tempus, namely to stimulate Central and Eastern European economies by means of exchange programmes and know-how transfer.

2.5. The Committee is further of the view that recent political, economic and social developments in Central and Eastern Europe have made the aims and activities of Tempus even more relevant and necessary.

2.6. The Committee considers the financing proposed by the Commission for the additional pilot year (1991 ECU 76 million, 1992 ECU 110 million) as entirely appropriate.

3. Concluding comments

3.1. The Committee is pleased to note that to date the Tempus programme is on schedule and all information and proposals have been submitted on time.

3.2. It would, however, take this opportunity to reiterate two suggestions put forward in its previous Opinion on Tempus⁽¹⁾, namely that

3.2.1. training curricula and social protection problems be added to the proposed priorities,

⁽¹⁾ OJ No C 168, 10. 7. 1990.

3.2.2. the 'other bodies' include establishments providing advanced vocational training which are run by

employers' organizations, trade unions and other participants in vocational training.

Done at Brussels, 26 February 1992.

*The Chairman
of the Economic and Social Committee*

Michael GEUENICH

Opinion on the proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC) amending Regulation (EEC) No 1408/71 on the application of social security schemes to employed persons, to self-employed persons, and members of their families moving within the Community, and Regulation (EEC) No 574/72 laying down the procedure for implementing Regulation (EEC) No 1408/71

(92/C 98/03)

On 22 January 1992, the Council decided to consult the Economic and Social Committee, under Article 198 of the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community, on the abovementioned proposal.

The Section for Social, Family, Educational and Cultural Affairs, which was responsible for preparing the Committee's work on the subject, adopted its Opinion on 14 February 1992. The Rapporteur was Mr Pearson.

At its 294th Plenary Session (meeting of 26 February 1992) the Economic and Social Committee adopted the following Opinion unanimously.

COMMENT

1. The Committee welcomes the proposal in that it represents a further necessary updating of the legislation [Regulation (EEC) No 1408/71] on issues already agreed, and the laying down of the procedures [Regulation (EEC) No 574/72] for implementing these changes.

A desired primary objective of the EC—the right to freedom of movement—is being obstructed because certain defined categories of citizen are still excluded from the area of Social Security. This proposal attempts to correct that situation.

1.1. It was agreed that within a People's Europe there must be freedom of movement for all persons, and not only for workers who are employed or self-employed and members of their families.

1.2. The Single European Act, in Article 8 A, which supplements the provisions of the Treaty, provides for the establishment of an internal market comprising an

area without internal frontiers within which the free movement of persons is guaranteed.

1.3. The Community Charter of Basic Social Rights for Workers has strengthened these principles by stressing the right also to social protection.

1.4. Previous work done by the Council, the Commission, the Parliament, and the Economic and Social Committee supports these proposed changes.

2.1. The Treaty of Rome does not make provision for removing the obstacles inherent in social security to allow the freedom of movement for persons who are not workers or members of their family, and therefore under Article 235 of the Treaty the scope of the current provisions must be extended for all insured persons who are:

a) the self-employed to include family and unemployment benefits;