

Friday 9 October 1998

MINUTES OF THE SITTING OF FRIDAY 9 OCTOBER 1998

(98/C 328/05)

PART I**Proceedings of the sitting**

IN THE CHAIR: Mrs SCHLEICHER

*Vice-President**(The sitting opened at 09.00)***1. Approval of Minutes**

Mr David W. Martin had informed the Chair that he had been present the previous day but that his name was not on the attendance register.

The following spoke:

— Mr von Habsburg, who announced that he had discovered, following the previous day's vote on Georgia (Part I, Item 25) that a letter had been circulated from an official, on official paper, calling on Members not to vote for the motion for a resolution on this subject; he asked for the matter to be investigated (the President took note of this request, assured him that the matter would be looked into and advised him to forward the letter in question to the Presidency).

— Mr Kerr, Mr Chichester and Mr Hallam, on membership of the British Conservative Party, following the exchange of views the previous day in the Chamber (Part I, end of Item 24). (The President pointed out that the comments made by these speakers related in fact to the Verbatim Report of Debates and not to the Minutes).

— Mrs McKenna, who called for the House to proceed with its business.

The Minutes of the previous sitting were approved.

2. Documents received

The President had received from the Commission:

(a) proposals and communications:

— Proposal for a European Parliament and Council Directive on the taking up, the pursuit and the prudential supervision of electronic money institutions (COM(98)0461 — C4-0531/98 — 98/0252(COD))

referred to
responsible: LEGA
opinion: ECON, ENVI

legal basis: Art. 57(2) EC

— Proposal for a European Parliament and Council Directive amending Directive 77/780/EEC on the co-ordination of laws, regulations and administrative provisions relating to the taking up and pursuit of business of credit institutions (COM(98)0461 — C4-0532/98 — 98/0253(COD))

referred to
responsible: LEGA
opinion: ECON, ENVI

legal basis: Art. 57(2) EC

— Proposal for a European Parliament and Council Directive amending Council Directive 78/548/EEC on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to heating systems for the passenger compartment of motor vehicles (COM(98)0526 — C4-0552/98 — 98/0277(COD))

referred to
responsible: ECON
opinion: TRAN

legal basis: Art. 100a EC

— Proposal for a European Parliament and Council Directive amending Decision 1254/96/EC laying down a series of guidelines for trans-European energy networks (COM(98)0542 — C4-0556/98 — 98/0284(COD))

referred to
responsible: RTDE

legal basis: Art. 129d, 1st paragraph EC

— Communication from the Commission to the Council: Fostering entrepreneurship in Europe: priorities for the future (COM(98)0222 — C4-0557/98)

referred to
responsible: ECON

— Recommendation for a Council decision concerning exchange rate matters relating to the CFA franc and the Comorian franc (COM(98)0412 — C4-0558/98)

referred to
responsible: ECON
opinion: DEVE

legal basis: Art. 109(3) EC

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(b) proposal for transfer of appropriations:

— Proposal for transfer of appropriations No 30/98 between Chapters in Section III — Commission — Part A — of the General Budget for the European Union for the financial year 1998 (SEC(98)1616 — C4-0553/98)

referred to
responsible: BUDG

(c) the following document:

— Opinion of the Commission on the European Parliament's amendment to the Council's common position regarding the proposal for a European Parliament and Council Directive on in vitro diagnostic medical devices (COM(98)0548 — C4-0559/98 — 95/0013(COD))

referred to
responsible: ECON
opinion: BUDG, RTDE, RELA, ENVI, CONT
legal basis Art. 100a EC

3. Referral to committees — 'Hughes' procedure

The Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection, initially the committee responsible, and the Committee on Budgets had been asked for opinions on the proposal for a Council Directive on port reception facilities for ship-generated waste and cargo residues (COM(98)0452 — C4-0494/98 — 98/0249(SYN)) (committee responsible: TRAN instead of ENVI).

The 'Hughes' procedure had been applied to:

- proposal for a Council Regulation on the development and consolidation of democracy and the rule of law and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms (actions concerning third countries) (COM(97)0357 — C4-0508/98 — 98/0813(CNS)) (committee responsible: FASE; asked for opinions: BUDG, RELA and DEVE)
Hughes procedure between FASE and DEVE;
- proposal for a Council Regulation on the development and consolidation of democracy and the rule of law and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms (actions concerning developing countries) (COM(97)0357 — C4-0507/98 — 97/0191(SYN)) (committee responsible: DEVE; asked for opinions: FASE and BUDG)
Hughes procedure between DEVE and FASE;

4. Membership of Parliament

The President announced that the competent Spanish authorities had informed him that Mr Escolá Hernando had been appointed Member of Parliament, to replace Mr Novo Belenquer, with effect from 8 October 1998.

She welcomed the new Member and drew attention to the provisions of Rule 7(4).

5. Membership of committees and delegations

At the request of the ARE Group, Parliament ratified the appointment of Mr Escolá Hernando as member of the Committee on Regional Policy and the Delegation for Relations with the countries of South America and Mercosur.

6. Communication of common positions of the Council

Pursuant to Rule 64(1), the President announced that she had received from the Council, in accordance with Articles 189b and 189c of the EC Treaty, the following common positions, together with the reasons which had led to their adoption, and the Commission's positions:

— Common position adopted by the Council with a view to adopting a European Parliament and Council Directive on certain aspects of the sale of consumer goods and associated guarantees (C4-0533/98 — 96/0161(COD))

referred to
responsible: ENVI
opinion: ECON, LEGA

legal basis: Art. 100a EC

— Common position adopted by the Council with a view to adopting a European Parliament and Council Decision on the coordinated introduction of a third-generation mobile and wireless communications system (UMTS) in the Community (C4-0534/98 — 98/0051(COD))

referred to
responsible: ECON
opinion: BUDG, RTDE

legal basis: Art. 57 EC, Art. 66 EC, Art. 100a EC

— Common position adopted by the Council with a view to adopting a European Parliament and Council Decision adopting a Multiannual Community Action Plan on promoting safer use of the Internet by combating illegal and harmful content on global networks (C4-0535/98 — 97/0337(COD))

referred to
responsible: CIVI
opinion: BUDG, ECON, WOME, CULT

legal basis: Art. 129a EC

— Common position adopted by the Council with a view to adopting a European Parliament and Council Regulation

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amending Regulation (EEC) No 2913/92 with regard to the external transit procedure (C4-0536/98 – 97/0242(COD))

referred to
responsible: ECON
opinion: CONT, RELA

legal basis: Art. 28 EC, Art. 100a EC, Art. 113 EC

– Common position adopted by the Council with a view to adopting a Council Directive on the landfill of waste (C4-0539/98 – 97/0085(SYN))

referred to
responsible: ENVI
opinion: ECON

legal basis: Art. 130s(1) EC

– Common position adopted by the Council with a view to adopting a Council Directive relating to limit values for sulphur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide and oxides of nitrogen, particulate matter and lead in ambient air (C4-0540/98 – 97/0266(SYN))

referred to
responsible: ENVI

legal basis: Art. 130s EC, Art. 129 EC

– Common position adopted by the Council with a view to adopting a Council Decision amending Decision 93/389/EEC for a monitoring mechanism of Community CO₂ and other greenhouse gas emissions (C4-0542/98 – 96/0192(SYN))

referred to
responsible: ENVI

legal basis: Art. 130s(1) EC

The three-month period available to Parliament to deliver its opinion would therefore begin the following day, Saturday 10 October 1998.

Mrs Mosiek-Urbahn spoke on the President's announcement.

7. EEC/San Marino *** (vote)

Habsburg-Lothringen recommendation – A4-0238/98
(Simple majority)

DRAFT DECISION (assent procedure)

Parliament adopted the decision and thereby gave its assent to the conclusion of the protocol (*Part II, Item 1*).

8. JET * (vote)

Ahern report – A4-0311/98
(Simple majority)

PROPOSAL FOR A DECISION COM(98)0013 – C4-0137/98 – 98/0063(CNS):

Parliament approved the Commission proposal (*Part II, Item 2*).

DRAFT LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION:

Parliament adopted the legislative resolution (*Part II, Item 2*).

9. Community statistical programme 1998-2002 * (vote)

Lulling report – A4-0321/98
(Simple majority)

PROPOSAL FOR A DECISION COM(97)0735 – C4-0197/98 – 98/0012(CNS):

Amendments adopted: 1 to 6 collectively; 7 as amended; 8 to 14 collectively

Amendment rejected: 15 by RCV

The following spoke during the vote:

– the rapporteur proposed, by way of oral amendment, withdrawing from amendment 7 the word 'independent' wherever it occurred and adding to the second subparagraph the words 'taking account of the views of independent experts'.

The President established that there was no opposition to this oral amendment being put to the vote.

Results of RCVs:

am. 15 (I-EDN):

Members voting:	179
For:	30
Against:	148
Abstentions:	1

Parliament approved the Commission proposal as amended (*Part II, Item 3*).

DRAFT LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION:

Parliament adopted the legislative resolution (*Part II, Item 3*).

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* *

Explanations of vote were made by the following Members:

Ahern report – A4-0311/98

– *in writing:* Mr Lindqvist

*
* *

Corrections to votes – Members present but not voting

Mrs Schleicher, who was in the Chair, said that she had not taken part in the votes.

Lulling report – A4-0321/98

– am. 15

Intended to vote against: Flemming and Howitt

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10. Pigmeat (statement with debate and vote)

Mr Fischler, Member of the Commission, made a statement on pigmeat.

The following spoke: Mr Fantuzzi, on behalf of the PSE Group, Mrs Redondo Jiménez, on behalf of the PPE Group, Mr Mulder, on behalf of the ELDR Group, Mrs Poisson, on behalf of the UPE Group, Mr Jové Peres, on behalf of the GUE/NGL Group, Mr Graefe zu Baringdorf, on behalf of the V Group, Nicholson, on behalf of the I-EDN Group, Mr Paisley, Non-attached Member, Mr McCartin, Mrs Anttila, Mr Querbes, Mr Hallam, Mr Santini, Mrs Hardstaff, Mr Funk, Mr Filippi and Mr Fischler.

The President had received motions for resolutions pursuant to Rule 37(2) from the following Members:

— Pasty, Poisson, Guinebertière, Rosado Fernandes, Hyland and Gallagher, on behalf of the UPE Group, on the pork crisis in the European Union (B4-0888/98);

— Jové Peres, Novo and Querbes, on behalf of the GUE/NGL Group, on the crisis in the pork market in the European Union (B4-0889/98);

— McCartin, Gillis and Cushnahan, on behalf of the PPE Group, on the situation in the pig-producing industry in the EU (B4-0890/98);

— Fantuzzi, on behalf of the PSE Group, on pigmeat (B4-0891/98);

— Nicholson, des Places and Souchet, on behalf of the I-EDN Group, on the situation in the European pig industry (B4-0892/98);

— Graefe zu Baringdorf, on behalf of the V Group, on the marketing problems for pigmeat (B4-0893/98);

— Barthet-Mayer, on behalf of the ARE Group, on the pork crisis in the European Union (B4-0894/98).

The President closed the debate.

VOTE
(Simple majority)

MOTIONS FOR RESOLUTIONS B4-0888, 0889, 0890 and 0891/98:

— joint motion for a resolution tabled by the following Members:
Fantuzzi, on behalf of the PSE Group
Goepel and McCartin, on behalf of the PPE Group
Rosado Fernandes, on behalf of the UPE Group
Jové Peres, on behalf of the GUE/NGL Group
to replace these motions for resolutions by a new text:

The different parts of the text were adopted successively, paragraph 3 by separate vote.

The following spoke:

— Mr Graefe zu Baringdorf, on behalf of the V Group, requested a separate vote on paragraph 3 to which the President agreed.

Explanations of vote were made by the following Members:

— *oral:* Van Dam, on behalf of the I-EDN Group

— *in writing:* Barthet-Mayer; Souchet; Sindal

Parliament adopted the resolution (*Part II, Item 4*).

(Motions for resolutions B4-0892, 0893 and 0894/98 fell).

IN THE CHAIR: Mr GUTIÉRREZ DÍAZ

Vice-President

11. CAP/euro * (debate and vote)

Mrs Schierhuber introduced her report, drawn up on behalf of the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development on I. Proposal for a Council Regulation establishing agrimonetary arrangements for the euro (COM(98)0367 — C4-0406/98 — 98/0214(CNS)); II. Proposal for a Council Regulation on transitional measures to be applied under the common agricultural policy with a view to the introduction of the euro (COM(98)0367 — C4-0407/98 — 98/0215(CNS)) (A4-0320/98).

The following spoke: Mr Wilson, on behalf of the PSE Group, Mr Funk, on behalf of the PPE Group, Mrs Anttila, on behalf of the ELDR Group, Mr Hallam, Mrs Lulling, Mr Gillis, Mr Fischler, Member of the Commission, and the rapporteur.

The President closed the debate.

VOTE
(Simple majority)

I. PROPOSAL FOR A REGULATION COM(98)0367 — C4-0406/98 — 98/0214(CNS):

Amendments adopted: 1; 2 and 4 to 8 collectively

Amendment not put to the vote (Rule 125(1)(e)): 3

Parliament approved the Commission proposal as amended (*Part II, Item 5*).

DRAFT LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION:

Parliament adopted the legislative resolution (*Part II, Item 5*).

II. PROPOSAL FOR A REGULATION COM(98)0367 — C4-0407/98 — 98/0215(CNS):

Parliament approved the Commission proposal (*Part II, Item 5*).

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DRAFT LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION:

Explanations of vote were made by the following Members:

— *in writing*: Souchet

Parliament adopted the legislative resolution (*Part II, Item 5*).

12. Agricultural products and agri-foodstuffs (debate and vote)

Mr Mulder introduced his report, drawn up on behalf of the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development, on a quality policy for agricultural products and agri-foodstuffs (A4-0280/98).

The following spoke: Mr Fantuzzi, on behalf of the PSE Group, Mr Filippi, on behalf of the PPE Group, Mrs Anttila, on behalf of the ELDR Group, Mr Rosado Fernandes, on behalf of the UPE Group, Mr Seppänen, on behalf of the GUE/NGL Group, Mr Graefe zu Baringdorf, on behalf of the V Group, Mrs Barthet-Mayer, on behalf of the ARE Group, Mr Souchet, on behalf of the I-EDN Group, Mr Happart, Mrs Keppelhoff-Wiechert, Mrs Hardstaff, Mrs Schierhuber and Mr Fischler, Member of the Commission.

The President closed the debate.

VOTE

(Simple majority)

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

Amendments adopted: 7 by EV (40 for, 32 against, 1 abstention); 8

Amendments rejected: 5; 1; 2 by EV (33 for, 42 against, 0 abstention); 6 (1st part); 3

Amendment fallen: 6 (2nd part)

Amendment not put to the vote (Rule 125(1)(e)): 4

The different parts of the text were adopted in order.

Split votes:

am. 6 (GUE/NGL)

1st part: text without the words 'and policy to promote regional products'

2nd part: these words

Explanations of vote were made by the following Members:

— *in writing*: Sindal; Van Dam, Gillis

Corrections to votes — Members present but not voting

— am. 3

present but did not vote: Mulder

Parliament adopted the resolution (*Part II, Item 6*).

Mr Graefe zu Baringdorf put a question to the Commission which Mr Fischler answered.

13. Objective 2: job-creation (debate and vote)

Mr Vallvé introduced his report, drawn up on behalf of the Committee on Regional Policy, on the Commission communication to the Council to the European Parliament, the Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions entitled 'New regional programmes 1997-1999 under Objective 2 of the Community structural policies — priority to job-creation' (COM(97)0524 — C4-0641/97) (A4-0213/98).

The following spoke: Mrs González Álvarez, draftsman of the opinion of the Committee on Employment, Mr Howitt, on behalf of the PSE Group, Mr Berend, on behalf of the PPE Group, Mr Lindqvist, on behalf of the ELDR Group, Mr Donay, on behalf of the UPE Group, Mr Escolá Hernando, on behalf of the ARE Group, Mr Porto, Mrs Klauf, Mr Hatzidakis, and Mrs Wulf-Mathies, Member of the Commission.

The President closed the debate.

VOTE

(Simple majority)

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

Mr Kellett-Bowman protested against the fact that the I-EDN Group had requested six roll-call votes with the financial implications and the time taken up which these implied, when only one of its members was present (the President replied that the requests had been tabled in accordance with the Rules and that he could not object).

Amendments adopted: 1; 11 by EV (29 for, 17 against, 0 abstention); 4 (1st part) by RCV

Amendments rejected: 2 by RCV; 6 by RCV; 8 by EV (17 for, 30 against, 0 abstention); 3 by RCV; 4 (2nd part) by RCV; 9 by EV (24 for, 26 against, 0 abstention); 7 by RCV; 10; 5 by RCV

The different parts of the text were adopted in order.

The following spoke during the vote:

— Mr Paasio said that he had voted on amendment 2 from a different seat;

— the rapporteur who, after the vote on amendment 6, asked that the President indicate the rapporteur's position on the amendments (the President answered that he had not been given the necessary information and that, for the following votes, he would follow the indications made to him by the rapporteur).

Split votes:

am. 4 (ELDR, PPE)

1st part: up to 'a common solidarity'

2nd part: remainder

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Results of RCVs:

am. 2 (I-EDN):	
Members voting:	51
For:	7
Against:	44
Abstentions:	0
am. 6 (I-EDN):	
Members voting:	48
For:	20
Against:	28
Abstentions:	0
am. 3 (I-EDN):	
Members voting:	50
For:	2
Against:	43
Abstentions:	5
am. 4 (1st part) (I-EDN):	
Members voting:	50
For:	40
Against:	10
Abstentions:	0
am. 4 (2nd part) (I-EDN):	
Members voting:	48
For:	14
Against:	34
Abstentions:	0
am. 7 (I-EDN):	
Members voting:	49
For:	4
Against:	39
Abstentions:	6
am. 5 (I-EDN):	
Members voting:	49
For:	6
Against:	43
Abstentions:	0

Explanations of vote were made by the following Members:

— *in writing:* Mr Andersson

Corrections to votes — Members present but not voting

Mr Gutiérrez Díaz, who was in the Chair, had not taken part in the votes.

— am. 4 (2nd part)
Intended to vote against: Mr Cornelissen

Parliament adopted the resolution (*Part II, Item 7*).

Mr Berthu spoke, on behalf of the I-EDN Group, on Mr Kellert-Bowman's remarks at the beginning of the vote.

14. Ariane *I — Kaleidoscope ***I (debate and vote)**

The next item was the debate on two reports.

Mr Pex introduced his reports, drawn up on behalf of the Committee on Culture, Youth, Education and the Media, on:

— Proposal for a European Parliament and Council Decision amending Decision No 2085/97/EC establishing a support programme, including translation, in the field of books and reading (Ariane Programme) (COM(98)0539 — C4-0544/98 — 98/0282(COD)) (A4-0355/98).

— Proposal for a European Parliament and Council Decision amending Decision No 719/96/EC establishing a programme to support artistic and cultural activities having a European dimension (Kaleidoscope Programme) (COM(98)0539 — C4-0545/98 — 98/0283(COD)) (A4-0356/98).

The following spoke: Mr von Habsburg, on behalf of the PPE Group and Mrs Wulf-Mathies, Member of the Commission.

Mr Medina Ortega asked the President to congratulate the Portuguese author José Saramago who had just been awarded the Nobel prize for literature (the President replied he would do so later).

The President closed the debate.

VOTE
(Simple majority)

(a) A4-0355/98

PROPOSAL FOR A DECISION COM(98)0539 — C4-0544/98 — 98/0282(COD):

Amendment adopted: 1

Parliament approved the Commission proposal as amended (*Part II, Item 8(a)*).

DRAFT LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION:

Parliament adopted the legislative resolution (*Part II, Item 8(a)*).

(b) A4-0356/98

PROPOSAL FOR A DECISION COM(98)0539 — C4-0545/98/ — 98/0283(COD):

Amendment adopted: 1

Parliament approved the Commission proposal as amended (*Part II, Item 8(b)*).

DRAFT LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION:

Parliament adopted the legislative resolution (*Part II, Item 8(b)*).

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15. Membership of Parliament

The President informed the House that Mr Apolinário had been appointed to the Portuguese Government with effect from 3 October 1998.

He congratulated Mr Apolinário on this appointment.

The Portuguese authorities had informed the President that Mr Apolinário would be replaced by Mrs Elisa Maria Ramos Damião.

The President welcomed the new Member and drew attention to the provisions of Rule 7(4).

He also informed the House that Mr Vandemeulebroucke had informed him in writing of his resignation as Member of Parliament with effect from 15 October 1998.

Pursuant to Rule 8 and to Article 12(2), second subparagraph, of the act concerning the election of representatives of the European Parliament, Parliament established that there was a vacancy; the Member State concerned would be informed accordingly.

16. Forwarding of texts adopted during the sitting

The President informed Parliament, pursuant to Rule 133(2) that the Minutes of that day's sitting would be submitted to Parliament for its approval at the beginning of its next sitting.

With Parliament's agreement, he stated that he would forward the texts that had just been adopted forthwith to the bodies named therein.

17. Dates for next sittings

The President announced that the next sittings would be held from 19 to 23 October 1998.

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The President underlined the importance for the Iberian world of two events which had taken place that week, namely the award of the Nobel Prize for literature to the Portuguese author José Saramago and the visit to Parliament by His Majesty King Juan Carlos I of Spain.

18. Adjournment of session

The session was adjourned.

(The sitting closed at 12.45)

Julian PRIESTLEY
Secretary-General

José María GIL-ROBLES GIL-DELGADO
President

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PART II

Texts adopted by the European Parliament

1. EEC/San Marino ***

A4-0238/98

Decision on the Protocol to the Agreement on Cooperation and Customs Union between the European Economic Community and the Republic of San Marino consequent upon the accession of the Republic of Austria, the Republic of Finland and the Kingdom of Sweden to the European Union (6788/97 – C4-0262/98 – 97/0022(AVC))

(Assent procedure)

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the protocol, 6788/97 – 97/0022(AVC),
- having regard to the Council's request for Parliament's assent pursuant to Article 228(3), second subparagraph of the EC Treaty (6788/97 – C4-0262/98),
- having regard to Rule 90(7) of its Rules of Procedure,
- having regard to the recommendation of the Committee on External Economic Relations (A4-0238/98),

1. Gives its assent to the conclusion of the protocol;
2. Instructs its President to forward this decision to the Council and Commission, and the governments and parliaments of the Member States and of the Republic of San Marino.

2. JET *

A4-0311/98

Proposal for a Council Decision approving amendments to the Statutes of the Joint European Torus (JET), Joint Undertaking (COM(98)0013 – C4-0137/98 – 98/0063(CNS))

The proposal was approved:

Legislative resolution embodying Parliament's opinion on the proposal for a Council Decision approving amendments to the Statutes of the Joint European Torus (JET), Joint Undertaking (COM(98)0013 – C4-0137/98 – 98/0063(CNS))

(Consultation procedure)

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the Commission proposal to the Council, COM(98)0013 – 98/0063(CNS) ⁽¹⁾,
- having been consulted by the Council pursuant to Article 50 of the Euratom Treaty (C4-0137/98),

⁽¹⁾ OJ C 108, 7.4.1998, p. 3.

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- having regard to Rule 58 of its Rules of Procedure,
 - having regard to the report of the Committee on Research, Technological Development and Energy and the opinion of the Committee on Budgets (A4-0311/98),
1. Approves the Commission proposal;
 2. Calls on the Council to notify Parliament should it intend to depart from the text approved by Parliament;
 3. Asks to be consulted again should the Council intend to make substantial modifications to the Commission proposal;
 4. Instructs its President to forward this opinion to the Council and Commission.

3. Community Statistical Programme 1998-2002 *

A4-0321/98

**Proposal for a Council Decision on the Community Statistical Programme 1998-2002
(COM(97)0735 – C4-0197/98 – 98/0012(CNS))**

The proposal was approved with the following amendments:

TEXT PROPOSED
BY THE COMMISSION

AMENDMENTS
BY PARLIAMENT

(Amendment 1)

Recital 3a (new)

Whereas the equality of women and men is one of the objectives of the Community, and whereas the Community must seek in all its activities to eliminate inequality between women and men; whereas, in this respect, the production of separate statistics for women and men in all relevant policy areas is of vital importance; whereas, in the context of this programme, methods must be developed to obtain specific statistics for each sex;

(Amendment 2)

Recital 5a (new)

Whereas, for the purposes of implementing this programme, a partnership should be established between the Commission, the national authorities and, where appropriate, their regional partners, and the respondents (households, individuals or companies);

(Amendment 3)

Recital 5b (new)

Whereas, when it presents its annual legislative programme, the Commission shall provide information on the state of progress of this partnership on the basis of an annual report drawn up by Eurostat;

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TEXT PROPOSED
BY THE COMMISSIONAMENDMENTS
BY PARLIAMENT

(Amendment 4)

Recital 5c (new)

Whereas objective and reliable statistics are very important for decision-making at European Union and Member State level; whereas the independence of Eurostat and the national statistics offices must be ensured and they should therefore be endowed with adequate financial resources;

(Amendment 5)

Recital 5d (new)

Whereas within the European Union, the work of statisticians within the Community Statistical System and the transmission and publication of their work has remained and needs to remain independent from political pressure; whereas sufficient resources are needed in order to ensure this independence;

(Amendment 6)

Recital 5e (new)

Whereas under the five-year statistical framework programme for the period 1998 to 2002, Eurostat and the national statistical offices will be faced with new challenges, such as the reform of the Common Agricultural Policy, enlargement, the functioning of the single currency and in particular the development of harmonised statistics for the Euro area, the Growth and Stability Pact, the development and monitoring of the labour market and the preparations for the definitive VAT regime;

(Amendment 7)

Article 4

During the third year of implementation of the programme the Commission will present *an intermediate report showing its stage of development*.

At the end of the period covered by the programme the Commission, after consulting the Statistical Programme Committee, shall present an appropriate evaluation report on the implementation of the programme. That report is to be completed by the end of 2003 and subsequently submitted to the European Parliament and the Council.

During the third year of implementation of the programme the Commission will present **a mid-programme evaluation showing how the programme is developing**.

At the end of the period covered by the programme the Commission, after consulting the Statistical Programme Committee, shall present an appropriate evaluation report on the implementation of the programme, **taking into account the views of independent experts**. That report is to be completed by the end of 2003 and subsequently submitted to the European Parliament and the Council.

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TEXT PROPOSED
BY THE COMMISSIONAMENDMENTS
BY PARLIAMENT

(Amendment 8)

Annex 1, Introduction (iii)(d), first subparagraph

Other areas of statistical data collection not covered above are nevertheless required for policy purposes.

Other areas of statistical data collection not covered above are nevertheless required for policy purposes. **Should any further substantial statistical requirement arise, these will be accompanied by corresponding budgetary appropriations.**

(Amendment 9)

Annex 1, Title II, Summary, indents 2 to 4

- * plan the development of a new generation of agricultural statistics with the aim to meet the future needs of the CAP;
- * develop comparable data for the negotiations on the enlargement of the Union;
- * consolidate and improve the fishery statistics data flows.

- * plan the development of a new generation of agricultural statistics with the aim to meet the future needs of the CAP, **thereby enabling forecasts to be made of the movement in agricultural spending in the various CAP areas;**
- * develop comparable data for the negotiations on the enlargement of the Union;
- * consolidate and improve the fishery statistics data flows **to improve reliability, data availability, comparability and timeliness.**

(Amendment 10)

Annex 1, Title VIII, Summary, indent 7

- * the consolidation of Social Protection Statistics.

- * the consolidation of Social Protection Statistics, **in particular improving availability of data concerning gender specific activities;**
- * **pursuing the development of harmonised statistics relating to unemployment and the labour market;**
- * **the provision of common indicators to monitor employment measures within the framework of the four pillars of the Employment Guidelines;**
- * **the comparability of statistical indicators used by the Member States and the reduction in the time-lapse in the collection of data;**
- * **the provision of adequate statistical data in the field of education and training.**

(Amendment 11)

Annex 1, Title XII, Summary, indents

- * consolidating and improving trade statistics in the field of energy;
- * *develop* a set of statistics on the environmental impact of energy.

- * consolidating and improving trade statistics in the field of energy **to enable a real follow-up of the internal market in the energy domain;**
- * developing a set of statistics on the environmental impact of energy **within the framework of the post-Kyoto strategy.**

Friday 9 October 1998

TEXT PROPOSED
BY THE COMMISSIONAMENDMENTS
BY PARLIAMENT

(Amendment 12)

Annex 1, Title XIII, Summary, indent 3

- | | |
|--|---|
| * the development of a set of future steel statistics; | * the development of a set of future steel statistics compatible with current standards of quality and timeliness; |
|--|---|

(Amendment 13)

Annex 1, Title XVI, Summary, indents

- | | |
|---|--|
| * pursue the development of environment statistics and improve their dissemination; | * pursue the development of environment statistics, with the emphasis on the collection of basic data, and improve their dissemination; |
| * continue the production of <i>pressure indexes</i> ; | * continue the production of environmental indicators that can be related to the various sectors of the economy; |
| * develop a set of statistics linking environment and economy; | * develop a set of statistics linking environment and economy; |
| * develop a set of satellite accounts for the environment. | * develop a set of satellite accounts for the environment with which developments in the areas of the economy, the environment and social affairs (including employment) can be jointly analysed; |
| | * increase cooperation with the European Environment Agency. |

(Amendment 14)

Annex 1, Title XVII, Summary, indent 2a (new)

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|--|
| * ensuring that technical cooperation with developing countries continues at the same level as in previous years. |
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Legislative resolution embodying Parliament's opinion on the proposal for a Council Decision on the Community Statistical Programme 1998 to 2002 (COM(97)0735 – C4-0197/98 – 98/0012(CNS))

(Consultation procedure)

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the Commission proposal to the Council, COM(97)0735 – 98/0012(CNS),
- having been consulted by the Council pursuant to Article 213 of the Treaty (C4-0197/98),
- having regard to Rule 58 of its Rules of Procedure,
- having regard to the report of the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs and Industrial Policy and the opinions of the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development, the Committee on Budgets, the Committee on Research, Technological Development and Energy, the Committee on External Economic Relations, the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs, the Committee on Transport and Tourism, the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection, the Committee on Culture, Youth, Education and the Media, the Committee on Development and Cooperation, the Committee on Budgetary Control, the Committee on Fisheries and the Committee on Women's Rights (A4-0321/98),

Friday 9 October 1998

1. Approves the Commission proposal, subject to Parliament's amendments;
2. Calls on the Commission to alter its proposal accordingly, pursuant to Article 189a(2) of the EC Treaty;
3. Calls on the Council to notify Parliament should it intend to depart from the text approved by Parliament;
4. Asks to be consulted again should the Council intend to make substantial modifications to the Commission proposal;
5. Instructs its President to forward this opinion to the Council and Commission.

4. Pigeat

B4-0888, 0889, 0890 and 0891/98

Resolution on the crisis in the pigmeat sector

The European Parliament,

- A. whereas the Commission, by adopting Regulation 2042/98 of 25 September 1998 on special conditions for the granting of private storage aid for pigmeat, launched, with effect from 28 September 1998, an aid scheme for private storage of pigmeat in order to offset the impact of the crisis which has been affecting the sector for several months,
 - B. whereas the fall in pigmeat prices in the European Union has hit certain regions and producer countries harder than others and whereas some farmers are being forced to dispose of their animals at prices 30% below the cost of production,
 - C. whereas this industry is worth ECU 20 billion annually to rural Europe and involves a considerable number of farmers and many other workers,
 - D. whereas the height of the crisis is coinciding with the peak in the sector's production cycle, and whereas it is likely that this very high production level has been encouraged by the very attractive prices available over the last four years,
 - E. whereas the crisis in this sector could worsen if EU exports to the Russian market, which account for one-third of its total pigmeat exports, remain blocked and whereas there are still problems with exports to the Japanese markets,
1. Expresses grave concern at the situation facing small producers in particular and its misgivings about the lack of effective planning in connection with the management of supply;
 2. Notes the decisions taken at Union level and in certain Member States and calls on the Commission to check that they are consistent with the legislation in force;
 3. Further calls on the Commission, in addition to the measures already taken (aids to private storage and increased export refunds), to introduce further measures to reduce the surplus on the home market;
 4. Calls on the Commission, in the near future, to assess the impact of the measures adopted and to submit a report to Parliament, possibly accompanied by details of the further measures it plans to take;
 5. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission and the governments of the Member States.
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Friday 9 October 1998

5. CAP/euro *

A4-0320/98

I.**Proposal for a Council Regulation establishing agrimonetary arrangements for the euro
(COM(98)0367 – C4-0406/98 – 98/0214(CNS))**

The proposal was approved with the following amendments:

TEXT PROPOSED
BY THE COMMISSION (*)AMENDMENTS
BY PARLIAMENT

(Amendment 1)

Recital 2

Whereas in the present monetary situation, where the gaps between exchange rates and agricultural conversion rates are moderate, it is possible to establish a simpler agrimonetary system closer to the actual monetary situation; whereas consequently the conversion into the national currency of the non-participating Member States prices and amounts fixed in euros in legal instruments relating to the common agricultural policy may be done with the exchange rate of the euro in those currencies; whereas such a provision has the further advantage of considerably simplifying the management of the common agricultural policy;

Whereas in the present monetary situation, where the gaps between exchange rates and agricultural conversion rates are moderate, it is possible to establish a simpler agrimonetary system closer to the actual monetary situation; whereas consequently the conversion into the national currency of the non-participating Member States prices and amounts fixed in euros in legal instruments relating to the common agricultural policy may be done with the exchange rate of the euro in those currencies; whereas such a provision has the further advantage of considerably simplifying the management of the common agricultural policy **while enabling farm incomes to be protected from the consequences of currency fluctuations;**

(Amendment 2)

Recital 4

Whereas, in cases of major currency revaluation with potential effects on prices and amounts other than direct aid, farm incomes may in certain conditions be reduced; whereas as a consequence provision could justifiably be made for temporary, degressive aid to offset the effects of revaluations, and keep pace with the development of agricultural prices in a manner compatible with the rules of the general economy;

Whereas, in cases of major currency revaluation with potential effects on prices and amounts other than direct aid, farm incomes may in certain conditions be reduced; whereas as a consequence provision could justifiably be made for temporary, degressive aid to offset the effects of revaluations, and keep pace with the development of agricultural prices in a manner compatible with the rules of the general economy, **and for setting up a procedure simple and rapid enough to prevent currency variations from leading to distortions of competition, even briefly, and disturbing the European agricultural markets;**

(Amendment 4)

Recital 5a (new)

Whereas equal treatment among the farmers of the EU Member States is a fundamental principle of the CAP;

(*) OJ C 224, 17.7.1998, p. 15.

Friday 9 October 1998

TEXT PROPOSED
BY THE COMMISSIONAMENDMENTS
BY PARLIAMENT

(Amendment 5)

Recital 7

Whereas in the longer term the agricultural sector must adjust, like other sectors of the economy, to the monetary reality; whereas consequently a cut-off date should be set for the compensation arrangements; the setting of such a cut-off date is part of the budgetary discipline.

Whereas in the longer term the agricultural sector must adjust, like other sectors of the economy, to the monetary reality, **while bearing in mind that the agriculture of the Member States is directly linked to the CAP**; whereas consequently a cut-off date should be set for the compensation arrangements; **whereas** the setting of such a cut-off date is part of the budgetary discipline;

(Amendment 6)

Recital 9

Whereas a Member State that is not participating in economic and monetary union must have the option of making payments for expenditure resulting from legal instruments relating to the common agricultural policy in euros rather than in national currency; whereas steps should be taken to ensure that this option does not lead to any unjustified advantage for parties making or receiving payment;

Whereas a Member State that is not participating in economic and monetary union must have the option of making payments for expenditure resulting from legal instruments relating to the common agricultural policy in euros rather than in national currency; whereas steps should be taken to ensure that this option does not lead to any unjustified advantage **or disadvantage** for parties making or receiving payment;

(Amendment 7)

Recital 10a (new)

Whereas this Regulation should be amended accordingly when the European Union is next enlarged;

(Amendment 8)

Article 4(6), last subparagraph

These criteria may be amended, in the light of experience, *in accordance with the procedure laid down in Article 9.*

These criteria may be amended, in the light of experience, **by the Council acting by a qualified majority.**

Legislative resolution embodying Parliament's opinion on the proposal for a Council Regulation establishing agrimonetary arrangements for the euro (COM(98)0367 – C4-0406/98 – 98/0214(CNS))

(Consultation procedure)

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the Commission proposal to the Council, COM(98)0367 – 98/0214(CNS) ⁽¹⁾,
- having been consulted by the Council pursuant to Articles 42 and 43 of the EC Treaty (C4-0406/98),
- having regard to Rule 58 of its Rules of Procedure,
- having regard to the report of the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development and the opinion of the Committee on Budgets (A4-0320/98),

⁽¹⁾ OJ C 224, 17.7.1998, p. 15.

Friday 9 October 1998

1. Approves the Commission proposal, subject to Parliament's amendments;
2. Calls on the Council to notify Parliament should it intend to depart from the text approved by Parliament;
3. Asks to be consulted again should the Council intend to make substantial modifications to the Commission proposal;
4. Instructs its President to forward this opinion to the Council and Commission.

II.

Proposal for a Council Regulation on transitional measures to be applied under the common agricultural policy with a view to the introduction of the euro (COM(98)0367 – C4-0407/98 – 98/0215 (CNS))

The proposal was approved.

Legislative resolution embodying Parliament's opinion on the proposal for a Council Regulation on transitional measures to be applied under the common agricultural policy with a view to the introduction of the euro (COM(98)0367 – C4-0407/98 – 98/0215 (CNS))

(Consultation procedure)

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the Commission proposal to the Council, COM(98)0367 – 98/0215(CNS) ⁽¹⁾,
- having been consulted by the Council pursuant to Articles 42 and 43 of the EC Treaty (C4-0407/98),
- having regard to Rule 58 of its Rules of Procedure,
- having regard to the report of the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development and the opinion of the Committee on Budgets (A4-0320/98),

1. Approves the Commission proposal;
2. Calls on the Council to notify Parliament should it intend to depart from the text approved by Parliament;
3. Asks to be consulted again should the Council intend to make substantial modifications to the Commission proposal;
4. Instructs its President to forward this opinion to the Council and Commission.

⁽¹⁾ OJ C 224, 17.7.1998, p. 22.

Friday 9 October 1998

6. Agricultural products and agri-foodstuffs

A4-0280/98

Resolution on quality policy for agricultural products and agri-foodstuffs

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the motion for a resolution by Mr Miranda on future Community rules to promote high-quality regional specialities (B4-0028/96),
 - having regard to Rule 148 of its Rules of Procedure,
 - having regard to the report of the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development (A4-0280/98),
- A. whereas all the food appearing on the internal market should be safe from the public health point of view, and whereas European rules need to be continually updated and adequate control mechanisms need to be created,
- B. whereas consumers are increasingly interested not only in food safety but also in the origins and production methods of agricultural products or foodstuffs; whereas consumer interest has been focused in recent years on the environment and animal welfare; whereas a number of market operators have already responded to this and there are a variety of quality marks for agricultural products and foodstuffs,
- C. whereas, however, consumers wish to have guarantees to enable them to exercise their freedom of choice and must therefore have clear, readily comprehensible, reliable and honest information,
- D. whereas it took the initiative in setting aside, in the 1995 budget, ECU 10 million for developing a European quality mark for agricultural products and foodstuffs,
- E. whereas the Commission is currently considering the findings of a study which it has funded with the aim of listing and analysing the existing quality marks in Europe; whereas the Commission also wants this study to shed light on what the principal market operators expect in respect of these quality marks,
- F. whereas there is already a European quality policy for agricultural products which is aimed at organic farming and the Community protection of geographical indications and designations of origin, traditional specialities and the specific quality products of agriculture in the outermost regions; whereas these categories account for approximately 10% of the market in Europe,
- G. whereas protected products play a fundamental role in ensuring diversity of the agricultural products and foodstuffs available, thereby promoting consumer choice,
- H. whereas, however, horizontal and vertical Community rules already exist to safeguard public health and ensure compliance with minimum conditions of animal welfare (during the raising, transport and slaughter of animals),
1. Is of the opinion that the agricultural sector should derive its income as far as possible from the market and that European quality policy can make a positive contribution not only to this but also to the conservation of the countryside and regional development;
 2. Acknowledges that the concept of 'quality' is a subjective one which cannot be defined in a uniform way; is therefore of the opinion that European quality policy cannot replace, but can only complement and coordinate, existing national, regional and local quality policy;
 3. Considers investment in infrastructure to be a vital element in the reform of the CAP and of its rural development pillar, which will permit the development of local markets and of their marketing structures and greater linkage between local producers and the relevant local supply channels, as a way of promoting agricultural products of special quality; considers it essential, in this context, to support the development of organic farming practices and better promotion of regional and traditional products of special quality;

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4. Is of the opinion that the concept of quality, based on the ability to ensure optimum nutrition and public health, health security and ethical conduct during production, and also based on environmental protection, animal welfare, guarantees of the origin of products and transparency of information, should play an increasingly prominent role in international negotiations and that the Commission should take the initiative in this respect in the forthcoming WTO negotiations;
5. Calls for Regulation (EEC) 2092/91 on organic production methods to be extended to include animal products, and for the introduction of a European logo for biological products as a uniform means of drawing consumers' attention to the biological production methods of products; furthermore, is of the opinion that the introduction of a logo should be accompanied by a European promotion programme and that its value would be further enhanced in the eyes of consumers if production conditions were strict and checks reliable, equivalent and harmonised and performed by a body independent of any operator;
6. Calls for the development and preparation of arrangements for new types of professional quality expert, particularly for sensory and organoleptic analysis of products;
7. Calls on the Commission to evaluate and, where necessary, to accelerate the procedures for the granting of Community protection of geographical indications, designations of origin and traditional specialities on condition, of course, that the conditions which apply to protected denominations of origin and protected geographical indications are completely met;
8. Takes the view that European legislation, relating, inter alia, to the labelling of the products concerned, should accompany the growth in quality marks in order to guarantee their transparency for consumers; quality marks recognised at a European level must satisfy strict and precise basic conditions, including voluntary participation in the scheme, technical details available for public inspection, and independent monitoring, by a State body or an independent agency acting on the instructions of the State, at the cost of the interested parties;
9. Calls on the Commission to publish the initial results of its study as soon as possible, and in particular to indicate what agricultural and horticultural products would be suitable in the first instance for a European quality policy; expects that the study will show that a number of existing quality marks for agricultural products and foodstuffs in Europe are based on the same conditions and criteria; calls on the Commission to study the potential for a European quality mark for the relevant agricultural products and foodstuffs, as a complement to existing national or regional quality marks;
10. Calls for the introduction of a third European quality category based on environmental criteria in the broadest sense (including animal welfare); accordingly, and by analogy with organic farming, advocates a European code for good agricultural practice and European rules on integrated agriculture; in conclusion, establishing a European quality mark can make this new quality category apparent to consumers in a uniform way;
11. Points out that, through this third European quality category, consumer demand for more environmentally-compatible agricultural products and foodstuffs could be satisfied and, at the same time, environmentally-friendly farming should be promoted; calls on the Commission to study whether this quality mark should be based on life cycle assessments (LCAs) for the product in question in order to obtain clear and verifiable criteria which are appropriate to the different production methods and conditions in the Union;
12. Calls for traditional regional products to be required to comply with Community rules on production and particularly their certification, and for the necessary measures to be implemented by means of simple methods and possibly at a decentralised level;
13. Calls on the Commission, as part of the integrated policy on rural development, to promote decentralised regional processing and marketing organisations more than hitherto, and to give priority to promoting the processing of quality products by means of knock-on financing;

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14. Realises that, if there is no market demand, a European quality mark will not be able to replace the existing quality marks, but wishes to point to the advantages of adding a European quality mark to the existing ones: transparency for the consumer and completion of the internal market with retention of the value of the quality mark when products cross the internal borders;
15. Calls on the Commission to indicate how producers of quality products can be rewarded more by the market, or how they can benefit from special tax provisions, incorporating incentives, and how promotion funds can be employed to encourage citizens of Member States of the European Union to consume quality products;
16. Urges the Commission to uphold European quality policy in the context of the WTO and to guarantee the quality and compliance with health standards of imported agricultural products and foodstuffs on the European market, preferably through equivalence agreements with commercial partners;
17. Calls on the Commission, furthermore, to direct the market instruments provided for in sectoral COMs and structural provisions so as to assign priority to products which bear a quality mark recognised at European level;
18. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Commission and the Council.

7. Objective 2: job creation

A4-0213/98

Resolution on the Commission communication on the new regional programmes 1997-1999 under Objective 2 of the Community's Structural Policies – focusing on job creation (COM(97)0524 – C4-0641/97)

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the Commission communication, COM(97)0524 – C4-0641/97,
 - having regard to the objectives of the policy to achieve economic and social cohesion as laid down in Title XIV of the EC Treaty,
 - having regard to Articles 1 and 9 of Regulation (EEC) No 2081/93 establishing an Objective 2 for the conversion of areas affected by the decline of traditional industries within the programming period 1994-1999 ⁽¹⁾,
 - having regard to its resolution of 14 February 1996 on the second planning period of assistance under Objective 2 (1997-1999) ⁽²⁾,
 - having regard to the note for guidance on the implementation of interventions in declining industrial areas (Objective 2) in the second programming phase 1997-1999 (C(96)952),
 - having regard to the report of the Committee on Regional Policy and the opinion of the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs (A4-0213/98),
- A. whereas the Community support to industrial regions affected by serious decline and in need of conversion is of particular importance as part of its aim to achieve economic and social cohesion under Article 130a of the Treaty,
- B. whereas unemployment is the major challenge at the end of this century; whereas job creation should thus be a top priority in the Union's policies,

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 193, 31.7.1993, p. 5.

⁽²⁾ OJ C 65, 4.3.1996, p. 88.

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- C. whereas continuity between the first and the second Objective 2 periods (1994-1996 and 1997-1999) is evident in eligibility, where there were only minor changes and a more long-term approach in the regions affected by industrial decline was thereby ensured,
- D. whereas competitiveness and development of SMEs as a special priority reflect their particular importance in job creation, given that they represent two thirds of the overall workforce in the Union,
- E. whereas R&D and innovation are a challenge and an opportunity for industrial regions to convert their economic structure and improve their regional competitiveness, if the necessary infrastructure and a sufficient supply of qualified workers are ensured,
- F. whereas environment and sustainable development are a special priority, reflecting the complementarity of environment and regional development; whereas they should thus be the subject of Objective 2 funding directly as well as being a horizontal priority guaranteeing environmentally friendly and sustainable conversion,
- G. whereas ensuring equal opportunities as a horizontal objective is of lasting importance taking into account continuing inequalities in terms of access, presence and equal treatment on the labour market,
- H. whereas, in its recent proposals following Agenda 2000, the Commission recommended a new Objective 2, covering industrial and service, rural, urban and fisheries areas together in an objective to support economic and social conversion of regions facing a structural crisis with a distribution in terms of geographical coverage of 10%, 5%, 2% and 1% respectively,

1. Underlines the general importance and necessity of support to industrial regions in decline in need of economic and social conversion; therefore considers Objective 2 funding as an expression of European solidarity in pursuit of economic and social cohesion; underlines that Objective 2 support should be seen as an opportunity to support an economic development strategy which meets the challenge of international and Union-wide competition and shares out the Unions' general prosperity;

2. Notes that the available assessment of Objective 2 funding since its establishment in its current form shows that it has made a considerable impact in putting economic development issues and strategic planning on the agendas of the eligible regions, on employment, by creating and safeguarding around half a million net jobs between 1989 and 1993, and on diversification of economic structures which are dependent on old, declining industries;

Priorities

3. Welcomes the emphasis the Commission has given to the new programming period through presenting guidelines establishing paramount priorities; considers guidelines a practice which should be continued and thus notes with interest that the Commission recommends the introduction of guidelines as a new step immediately after the adoption of the Regulations;

4. Insists on being consulted when the guidelines are laid down;

5. Shares the view that job creation should be the overall top priority in a Union where around 18 million citizens are unemployed; stresses however that job creation should generally be linked to and generated by the market, thereby ensuring long-term employment;

6. Points to the need to strike a balance between policies to preserve and create jobs and other Union economic policies, in order to resolve the relatively frequent cases in which the two are at odds;

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7. Stresses that the four special priorities (competitiveness and support of SMEs, environment and sustainable development, R&D, innovation and equal opportunities) are of particular importance to conversion with the aim of developing a competitive, diversified future-oriented regional economic structure; therefore urges the Commission to adhere to an approach based on these priorities, which could — on a case-by-case basis — be accompanied by indicative percentage figures;

New programmes 1997-1999

8. Welcomes the fact that the new programmes adopted show broad continuity with the previous programming period in terms of priorities and eligible regions; perceives this continuity as an expression of its conviction that Objective 2 funding should follow a mid- to long-term approach and that a three-year programming period is too short;

9. Deplores the fact that, at the time of adoption of the 1997-1999 Objective 2 programmes, it was impossible to judge how far the Member States were already pursuing multidimensional action as part of the 'pathway approach', specifically with a view to supporting groups most likely to be threatened by long-term unemployment; calls on the Commission to ensure that the findings of the mid-term review of the current programming period are turned to good account in planning future assistance;

10. Regrets the fact that the quality of programmes still does not always meet expectations and that some programmes have been authorised by the Commission in respect of which it had to acknowledge that the horizontal aspects of the guidelines, such as environmental protection, sustainable development and equal opportunities, had been implemented to an insufficient degree; urges in particular that quantification of targets (job-creation e.g.) should be standard; observes with some surprise that, of the four special priorities, only R&D and innovation has seen a marked increase in expenditure, whereas productive investment — though having to be duly justified — stayed at the same level of expenditure;

11. Believes that, through the overall increase in available financial resources by 13,8% matched by a 12% carryover, a considerable additional impetus on reaching the expected impact should be visible; recalls that in terms of budgetary implementation the preceding period was characterised by delays leading basically to only two years of implementation; therefore welcomes the fact that the provisional execution data for the first year, 1997, revealed full take-up of the available appropriations;

Principles underlying Structural Fund measures

12. Regrets that the principle of additionality and its evaluation cause continuing problems at the time of the adoption of programmes due to insufficient or non-transmission of the necessary documents; agrees with the Commission's approach to introduce conditional clauses for the second payment but considers that this apparent structural deficiency should be addressed in the new regulations by a slight adjustment of its assessment;

13. Notes that improvements were made in implementing the partnership principle but that implementation still varies considerably among Member States; declares that it will support strengthening and formalising regional partnership (including regional and local as well as social partners) making it one of the pillars of programme planning and management;

14. Considers that programme documents must place great value on establishing indicators, because this is the only way in which evidence of progress in sustainable, job-creating development in the regions can be produced;

Future support to industrial regions in decline

15. Notes that the proposed new Objective 2 includes industrial and service areas, declining rural areas, urban areas in difficulties and fisheries areas; welcomes the safety net idea which will ensure that concentration is achieved by common solidarity;

16. Takes the view that in the new Objective 2 the 'industrial and service areas' and 'rural areas' should receive clear priority and a level of funding similar to the years 1994-1999;

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17. Questions the Commission's optimism on being able to ensure coherence in such a diverse objective; endorses the view that programming and management as well as partnership and additionality should be further improved; regrets, however, that strengthening the monitoring committees will not include independent approval of minor programme alterations;

18. Considers safeguarding the three basic criteria for industrial regions in decline to be justified according to experience and realities; welcomes the fact that adjacency to an Objective 1 region will continue to be a secondary criterion;

19. Notes with interest that the combination of Community and national criteria leaves more room for manoeuvre for the Member States, fears that this might however be used for introducing improper criteria at Member State level in the choice between theoretically eligible regions in order to meet the population ceiling established by the Commission;

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* * *

20. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission and the governments and parliaments of the Member States.

8. Ariane ***I – Kaleidoscope ***I

(a) A4-0355/98

Proposal for a European Parliament and Council Decision amending Decision No 2085/97/EC establishing a programme of support, including translation, in the field of books and reading (Ariane) (COM(98)0539 – C4-0544/98 – 98/0282(COD))

The proposal was approved with the following amendment:

TEXT PROPOSED
BY THE COMMISSION

AMENDMENTS
BY PARLIAMENT

(Amendment 1)

ARTICLE 1(2)
Article 6 (Decision No 2085/97/EC)

(2) In Article 6, ECU 7 million is replaced by EUR 10 million.

(2) In Article 6, ECU 7 million is replaced by EUR 11,1 million.

Legislative resolution embodying Parliament's opinion on the proposal for a European Parliament and Council Decision amending Decision No 2085/97/EC establishing a programme of support, including translation, in the field of books and reading (Ariane) (COM(98)0539 – C4-0544/98 – 98/0282(COD))

(Codecision procedure: first reading)

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the Commission proposal to Parliament and the Council, COM(98)0539 – 98/0282(COD),
- having regard to Articles 189b(2) and 128 of the EC Treaty, pursuant to which the Commission submitted the proposal to Parliament (C4-0544/98),

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- having regard to Rule 58 of its Rules of Procedure,
 - having regard to the report of the Committee on Culture, Youth, Education and the Media and the opinion of the Committee on Budgets (A4-0355/98),
1. Approves the Commission proposal, subject to Parliament's amendments;
 2. Calls on the Commission to alter its proposal accordingly, pursuant to Article 189a(2) of the EC Treaty;
 3. Calls on the Council to incorporate Parliament's amendments in the common position that it adopts in accordance with Article 189b(2) of the EC Treaty;
 4. Should the Council intend to depart from the text approved by Parliament, calls on the Council to notify Parliament and requests that the conciliation procedure be initiated;
 5. Points out that the Commission is required to submit to Parliament any modification it may intend to make to its proposal as amended by Parliament;
 6. Instructs its President to forward this opinion to the Council and Commission.

(b) A4-0356/98

Proposal for a European Parliament and Council Decision amending Decision No 719/96/EC establishing a programme to support artistic and cultural activities having a European dimension (Kaleidoscope) (COM(98)0539 – C4-0545/98 – 98/0283(COD))

The proposal was approved with the following amendment:

TEXT PROPOSED
BY THE COMMISSION

AMENDMENTS
BY PARLIAMENT

(Amendment 1)

ARTICLE 1(2)
Article 6 (Decision No 719/96/EC)

(2) In Article 6, ECU 26,5 million is replaced by EUR 34,4 million.

(2) In Article 6, ECU 26,5 million is replaced by EUR 36,7 million.

Legislative resolution embodying Parliament's opinion on the proposal for a European Parliament and Council Decision amending Decision No 719/96/EC establishing a programme to support artistic and cultural activities having a European dimension (Kaleidoscope) (COM(98)0539 – C4-0545/98 – 98/0283(COD))

(Codecision procedure: first reading)

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the Commission proposal to Parliament and the Council COM(98)0539 – 98/0283(COD),
- having regard to Articles 189b(2) and 128 of the EC Treaty, pursuant to which the Commission submitted the proposal to Parliament (C4-0545/98),
- having regard to Rule 58 of its Rules of Procedure,
- having regard to the report of the Committee on Culture, Youth, Education and the Media and the opinion of the Committee on Budgets (A4-0356/98),

Friday 9 October 1998

1. Approves the Commission proposal, subject to Parliament's amendments;
 2. Calls on the Commission to alter its proposal accordingly, pursuant to Article 189a(2) of the EC Treaty;
 3. Calls on the Council to incorporate Parliament's amendments in the common position that it adopts in accordance with Article 189b(2) of the EC Treaty;
 4. Should the Council intend to depart from the text approved by Parliament, calls on the Council to notify Parliament and requests that the conciliation procedure be initiated;
 5. Points out that the Commission is required to submit to Parliament any modification it may intend to make to its proposal as amended by Parliament;
 6. Instructs its President to forward this opinion to the Council and Commission.
-

Friday 9 October 1998

ATTENDANCE REGISTER

9 October 1998

The following signed:

d'Aboville, Adam, Aelvoet, Ahern, Amadeo, Anastassopoulos, d'Ancona, Andersson, Anttila, Aparicio Sánchez, Barhet-Mayer, Barton, Berend, Berger, Berthu, Blokland, Blot, Bösch, Boogerd-Quaak, Breyer, Buffetaut, Camisón Asensio, Campos, Carnero González, Cars, Casini Carlo, Cassidy, Chichester, Coelho, Collins Kenneth D., Colombo Svevo, Cornelissen, Costa Neves, Cox, Crawley, van Dam, De Coene, Delcroix, De Melo, Denys, Deprez, Dillen, Donnay, Eisma, Elchlepp, Ephremidis, Estevan Bolea, Ettl, Escola Manuel, Fabra Vallés, Fabre-Aubrespy, Falconer, Fantuzzi, Fassa, Féret, Fernández Martín, Filippi, Flemming, Fontaine, Formentini, Friedrich, Funk, Gahrton, García Arias, Garriga Polledo, Gebhardt, Giansily, Gillis, Gil-Robles Gil-Delegado, Girão Pereira, Goedbloed, Goepel, González Álvarez, Graefe zu Baringdorf, Graenitz, Graziani, Green, Gröner, Grossetête, Günther, Guinebertière, Gutiérrez Díaz, von Habsburg, Hager, Hallam, Happart, Hardstaff, Hatzidakis, Haug, Hawlicek, Hendrick, Herman, Hernandez Mollar, Hindley, Holm, Hory, Howitt, Jöns, Jové Peres, Junker, Karoutchi, Kellett-Bowman, Keppelhoff-Wiechert, Kerr, Kindermann, Klaß, Koch, Kofoed, Konrad, Kuckelkorn, Kuhn, Lage, Legendijk, Lambrias, Lehideux, Lindeperg, Lindqvist, Linkohr, Lukas, Lulling, McCartin, McGowan, McKenna, Malerba, Mann Thomas, Marinucci, Martin David W., Matikainen-Kallström, Mayer, Medina Ortega, Mendes Bota, Miller, Miranda de Lage, Mohamed Ali, Moniz, Moretti, Mosiek-Urbahn, Mulder, Mutin, Nassauer, Nicholson, Nordmann, Novo, Oddy, Ojala, Olsson, Orlando, Paasio, Pack, Paisley, Pasty, Pérez Royo, Peter, Pettinari, Pex, Piecyk, Pinel, Poettering, Poggiolini, Poisson, Porto, Posselt, Puerta, Querbes, Rapkay, Raschhofer, Redondo Jiménez, Rehder, Ribeiro, Rosado Fernandes, de Rose, Rothe, Salafranca Sánchez-Neyra, Santini, Sanz Fernández, Schäfer, Schiedermeier, Schierhuber, Schlechter, Schmidbauer, Schröder, Schulz, Schwaiger, Seppänen, Sindal, Sisó Cruellas, Skinner, Smith, Sonneveld, Souchet, Spencer, Stenmarck, Stenzel, Striby, Tannert, Telkämper, Theato, Thors, Thyssen, Tindemans, Torres Marques, Trakatellis, Ullmann, Vallvé, Vandemeulebroucke, Vanhecke, Varela Suanzes-Carpegna, Vecchi, Verwaerde, Voggenhuber, Walter, Watts, Weber, Weiler, Wemheuer, White, Wieland, Wijzenbeek, Willockx, Wilson, von Wogau, Wynn, Zimmermann

Friday 9 October 1998

ANNEX

Result of roll-call votes

- (+) = For
 (–) = Against
 (O) = Abstention

*1. Lulling report – A4-0321/98**Amendment 15*

(+)

ARE: Barthet-Mayer, Escola', Weber**ELDR:** Anttila, Lindqvist, Olsson**I-EDN:** Berthu, Blokland, Buffetaut, van Dam, Fabre-Aubrespy, Nicholson, Striby**NI:** Dillen, Hager, Lukas, Vanhecke**PPE:** Trakatellis**V:** Aelvoet, Ahern, Gahrton, Graefe zu Baringdorf, Holm, Kerr, Lagendijk, McKenna, Orlando, Telkämper, Ullmann, Voggenhuber

(–)

ELDR: Boogerd-Quaak, Cars, Cox, Eisma, Goedbloed, Mulder, Nordmann, Vallvé, Wijsenbeek**GUE/NGL:** Carnero González, Ephremidis, González Álvarez, Gutiérrez Díaz, Jové Peres, Mohamed Ali, Novo, Ojala, Puerta, Querbes, Ribeiro, Seppänen**NI:** Amadeo, Féret**PPE:** Anastassopoulos, Berend, Camisón Asensio, Casini Carlo, Cassidy, Chichester, Coelho, Colombo Svevo, Cornelissen, De Melo, Deprez, Estevan Bolea, Fabra Vallés, Fernández Martín, Filippi, Fontaine, Friedrich, Funk, Gillis, Goepel, Graziani, Grossetête, Günther, von Habsburg, Hatzidakis, Herman, Hernandez Mollar, Kellett-Bowman, Keppelhoff-Wiechert, Klaß, Koch, Konrad, Lehideux, Lulling, McCartin, Malerba, Mann Thomas, Matikainen-Kallström, Mayer, Mendes Bota, Mosiek-Urbahn, Nassauer, Pack, Pex, Poettering, Poggiolini, Porto, Posselt, Redondo Jiménez, Rübig, Salafranca Sánchez-Neyra, Santini, Schiedermeier, Schierhuber, Schröder, Schwaiger, Sisó Cruellas, Sonneveld, Spencer, Stenmarck, Theato, Thyssen, Tindemans, Varela Suanzes-Carpegna, Verwaerde, Wieland**PSE:** Adam, d'Ancona, Andersson, Aparicio Sánchez, Barton, Berger, Bösch, Collins Kenneth D., Delcroix, Ettl, Falconer, Fantuzzi, Graenitz, Green, Gröner, Hallam, Happart, Hardstaff, Haug, Hawlicek, Hendrick, Jöns, Katiforis, Kindermann, Kuckelkorn, Kuhn, Lindeperg, McAvan, McGowan, Marinucci, Martin David W., Medina Ortega, Miller, Miranda de Lage, Mutin, Pérez Royo, Piecyk, Rapkay, Rothe, Schmidbauer, Schulz, Sindal, Skinner, Smith, Tannert, Walter, Watts, Wemheuer, White, Willockx, Wynn**UPE:** d'Aboville, Giansily, Girão Pereira, Guinebertière, Karoutchi, Pasty, Poisson, Rosado Fernandes

(O)

NI: Paisley*2. Vallvé report – A4-0213/98**Amendment 2*

(+)

GUE/NGL: Ephremidis, González Álvarez, Jové Peres, Ojala, Querbes**I-EDN:** Berthu**UPE:** Rosado Fernandes

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(—)

ARE: Barthet-Mayer, Escola'

ELDR: Anttila, Cars, Eisma, Lindqvist, Mulder, Vallvé

PPE: Berend, Camisón Asensio, Cornelissen, Filippi, Fontaine, Garriga Polledo, Graziani, Grossetête, Günther, von Habsburg, Hatzidakis, Hernandez Mollar, Kellett-Bowman, Klaß, Nassauer, Pex, Schiedermeier, Schierhuber, Sisó Cruellas, Sonneveld, Stenmarck, Thyssen, Wieland

PSE: Andersson, Elchlepp, Ettl, Graenitz, Hallam, Hardstaff, Medina Ortega, Paasio, Schulz, Sindal, Tannert

V: Gahrton, Holm

3. Vallvé report — A4-0213/98

Amendment 6

(+)

GUE/NGL: Ephremidis, González Álvarez, Jové Peres, Ojala, Querbes

I-EDN: Berthu

PSE: Andersson, Elchlepp, Ettl, Graenitz, Hallam, Hardstaff, Medina Ortega, Paasio, Schulz, Sindal, Tannert

UPE: Rosado Fernandes

V: Gahrton, Holm

(—)

ARE: Escola'

ELDR: Anttila, Cars, Eisma, Mulder

PPE: Berend, Camisón Asensio, Cornelissen, Filippi, Fontaine, Garriga Polledo, Graziani, Grossetête, Günther, von Habsburg, Hatzidakis, Hernandez Mollar, Kellett-Bowman, Klaß, Nassauer, Pex, Schiedermeier, Schierhuber, Sisó Cruellas, Sonneveld, Stenmarck, Thyssen, Wieland

4. Vallvé report — A4-0213/98

Amendment 3

(+)

I-EDN: Berthu

UPE: Rosado Fernandes

(—)

ARE: Escola'

ELDR: Anttila, Cars, Eisma, Lindqvist, Mulder, Vallvé

PPE: Berend, Camisón Asensio, Cornelissen, Filippi, Fontaine, Garriga Polledo, Graziani, Grossetête, Günther, von Habsburg, Hatzidakis, Hernandez Mollar, Kellett-Bowman, Klaß, Nassauer, Pex, Schiedermeier, Schierhuber, Sisó Cruellas, Sonneveld, Stenmarck, Thyssen, Wieland

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PSE: Andersson, Elchlepp, Ettl, Graenitz, Hallam, Hardstaff, Medina Ortega, Paasio, Schulz, Sindal, Tannert

V: Gahrton, Holm

(O)

GUE/NGL: Ephremidis, González Álvarez, Jové Peres, Ojala, Querbes

5. Vallvé report — A4-0213/98

Amendment 4 (first part)

(+)

ARE: Escola'

ELDR: Anttila, Cars, Eisma, Lindqvist, Mulder, Vallvé

GUE/NGL: Ephremidis, González Álvarez, Jové Peres, Ojala, Querbes

I-EDN: Berthu

PPE: Berend, Camisón Asensio, Cornelissen, Filippi, Fontaine, Garriga Polledo, Graziani, Grossetête, Günther, von Habsburg, Hatzidakis, Hernandez Mollar, Kellett-Bowman, Klaß, Nassauer, Pex, Schiedermeier, Schierhuber, Sisó Cruellas, Sonneveld, Stenmarck, Thyssen, Wieland

PSE: Andersson

UPE: Rosado Fernandes

V: Gahrton, Holm

(—)

PSE: Elchlepp, Ettl, Graenitz, Hallam, Hardstaff, Medina Ortega, Paasio, Schulz, Sindal, Tannert

6. Vallvé report — A4-0213/98

Amendment 4 (second part)

(+)

ELDR: Lindqvist

GUE/NGL: Ephremidis, González Álvarez, Jové Peres, Ojala, Querbes

I-EDN: Berthu

PPE: Camisón Asensio, Garriga Polledo, Hernandez Mollar

PSE: Andersson

UPE: Rosado Fernandes

V: Gahrton, Holm

(—)

ARE: Escola'

ELDR: Anttila, Cars, Eisma, Mulder, Vallvé

PPE: Berend, Filippi, Fontaine, Graziani, Grossetête, Günther, von Habsburg, Hatzidakis, Kellett-Bowman, Klaß, Nassauer, Pex, Schiedermeier, Schierhuber, Sonneveld, Stenmarck, Thyssen, Wieland

PSE: Elchlepp, Ettl, Graenitz, Hallam, Hardstaff, Medina Ortega, Paasio, Schulz, Sindal, Tannert

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7. Vallvé report — A4-0213/98

Amendment 7

(+)

I-EDN: Berthu

UPE: Rosado Fernandes

V: Gahrton, Holm

(—)

ELDR: Anttila, Cars, Eisma, Lindqvist, Mulder, Vallvé

PPE: Berend, Camisón Asensio, Cornelissen, Filippi, Fontaine, Garriga Polledo, Graziani, Grossetête, Günther, von Habsburg, Hatzidakis, Hernandez Mollar, Kellett-Bowman, Klaß, Nassauer, Pex, Schiedermeier, Schierhuber, Sisó Cruellas, Sonneveld, Stenmarck, Thyssen, Wieland

PSE: Andersson, Elchlepp, Ettl, Graenitz, Hallam, Hardstaff, Medina Ortega, Paasio, Sindal, Tannert

(O)

ARE: Escola'

GUE/NGL: Ephremidis, González Álvarez, Jové Peres, Ojala, Querbes

8. Vallvé report — A4-0213/98

Amendment 5

(+)

GUE/NGL: González Álvarez, Jové Peres, Ojala, Querbes

I-EDN: Berthu

UPE: Rosado Fernandes

(—)

ARE: Escola'

ELDR: Anttila, Cars, Eisma, Lindqvist, Mulder, Vallvé

PPE: Berend, Camisón Asensio, Cornelissen, Filippi, Fontaine, Garriga Polledo, Graziani, Grossetête, Günther, von Habsburg, Hatzidakis, Hernandez Mollar, Kellett-Bowman, Klaß, Nassauer, Pex, Schiedermeier, Schierhuber, Sisó Cruellas, Sonneveld, Stenmarck, Thyssen, Wieland

PSE: Andersson, Elchlepp, Ettl, Graenitz, Hallam, Hardstaff, Medina Ortega, Paasio, Schulz, Sindal, Tannert

V: Gahrton, Holm
