

Financing instrument for democracy and human rights worldwide (2014-2020)

2011/0412(COD) - 06/12/2013 - Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading

The Committee on Foreign Affairs adopted the report by Alexander GRAF LAMBSDORFF (ADLE, DE) on the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a financing instrument for the promotion of democracy and human rights worldwide (EIDHR II) .

The committee recommended that the European Parliament's position at first reading, following the ordinary legislative procedure, should amend the Commission proposal.

The main amendments were as follows:

General objective: the objective of the EIDHR II should be to provide assistance to the development and consolidation of democracy and the rule of law and of respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms through:

- enhancing the respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms, as proclaimed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international and regional human rights instruments, and strengthening their protection, promotion, implementation and monitoring, mainly through support to relevant civil society organisations, human rights defenders and victims of repression and abuse;
- supporting, developing and consolidating democracy in third countries, by enhancing participatory and representative democracy, strengthening the overall democratic cycle, in particular by reinforcing an active role for **civil society** within this cycle, the rule of law and improving the reliability of electoral processes, in particular by means of election observation missions.

Specific objectives and scope: a series of new specific objectives have been added:

- reinforcing local democracy;
- promoting the equal participation of people with disabilities in decision-making;
- the abolition of the death penalty and the establishment of moratoria with a view to abolition where the death penalty still exists;
- supporting human rights defenders;
- protecting the rights of LGBTI persons;
- the fight against all forms of discrimination;
- promoting the observance of standards in prisons;
- promoting the peaceful outcome of electoral processes.

Performance indicators: progress in these areas would be assessed through performance indicators defined in the draft Regulation

General framework of assistance: the support should be granted in accordance with the general framework defined by the external policy of the EU and the **relevant texts of the European Parliament** in this area. To this end, a series of thematic objectives were defined in the Annex to future regulation.

Impact of civil society: the objectives of this Regulation should be pursued with an appropriate involvement of civil society organisations.

Implementation: provisions have been included to clarify the technical implementation of the EIDHR II in terms of its strategic planning and programming.

Financial envelope: in accordance with the agreement on the Financial Framework, the financial envelope for the implementation of the EIDHR II is set at **EUR 1 332 752 000**.

Coordination, consistency and complementarity of the assistance: in order to enhance the effectiveness, coherence and consistency of the Union's external action, the Union and the Member States shall seek regular exchanges of information and consult each other at an early stage of the programming process. The Commission and the European External Action Service (EEAS), as appropriate, should also hold regular exchanges of views and information with the European Parliament. The Union shall also consult other donors and actors.

Transparency: the European Parliament and the Council should have access to all relevant documents in the context of the implementation of the proposed Regulation, in accordance with their respective roles.

Delegated acts: the power to adopt acts in accordance with Article 290 of the Treaty of the Functioning of the European Union should be delegated to the Commission in respect of making amendments to the thematic priorities laid down in the Annex to this Regulation. Following the publication of the Mid-term report and based upon the recommendations contained in the mid-term review report of the EIDHR II, the Commission shall adopt a delegated act amending the Annex to this Regulation **by 31 March 2018**.

Annexes: the future regulation contains an annex which defines the **objectives and thematic priorities** for assistance.

It should be noted that the draft Regulation as amended is accompanied by a series of declarations including:

- a joint interinstitutional statement on election observation missions stressing that up to 25 % of the EIDHR budget should be devoted to the funding of election missions;
- a unilateral statement of the Commission on the strategic dialogue with the European Parliament prior to its programming.