EC/South Africa relations: financial, technical and economic cooperation

1995/0110(SYN) - 18/07/1996

The rapporteur, Mrs Gunther (EPP, D), stressed that in the wake of the free elections and the installation of a new government in South Africa it was now necessary to develop cooperation with that country, particularly in respect of the European Programme for Reconstruction. She also wanted the heads of the Commission delegation in South Africa to be able to authorise expenditure on projects and actions funded under the present regulation up to a maximum limit of ECU 500 000. In addition, the rapporteur called for the reference to an appropriation of ECU 500 million for the implementation of the regulation for the period 1996-99 to be deleted. Commissioner Pinheiro referred to how much Parliament’s amendments reflected the similarity of views held by Parliament and the Commission on the subject of actions to be taken in South Africa with a view to strengthening the democratic process currently under way; he also wanted to see greater participation by European and African NGOs. As far as the amendments were concerned, he was opposed to Amendment No 2, which referred to the maximum amount to be spent by the heads of delegation in South Africa, since for the moment there was insufficient personnel. He agreed with Amendment No 3, which recommended setting up a type IIa management committee, rather than a type IIIa regulatory committee. He concluded by stating that he supported Amendment No 4, which proposed not setting a deadline for the expiry of the regulation and deleting any mention of a financial allocation for the implementation of the regulation for the period 1996-99, since such a reference was the responsibility of the budgetary authority.