

EC/developing countries: aid for population policies and programmes in developing countries

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While pointing out that 26 out of the 40 amendments tabled at first reading had been taken over in the common position, the rapporteur highlighted certain financial commitments which had been entered into on behalf of the EU during the Cairo Conference in 1994 and the appropriateness of replacing the regulatory committee, established by the Council, with an advisory committee as desired by Parliament. Commissioner Marín stated that he could accept Amendment No 2 on comitology but Amendment No 1, which called for the Community's financial support for the population policies of developing countries to be increased to ECU 300 million by the year 2000, could not be accepted for technical reasons relating to the budget line in question. Other amendments could also not be accepted: this was the case with Amendments Nos 3 and 4 for objective reasons and Nos 5 and 8 because they were superfluous. Finally, the Commissioner cited three bilateral cooperation projects which by themselves showed the extent of the budgetary burden that the Commission was currently supporting in the population field: these involved subsidies for family planning and maternity in India (ECU 200 million), Asia (ECU 25 million) and the Philippines (ECU 19 million).