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

1995/0110(SYN) - 19/03/1996 - Council position

In its common position the Council took up some of Parliament's amendments, including those seeking to: - make provision for environmental protection projects; - enable community-based organizations to obtain funding; - extend eligibility for participation in invitations to tender to the countries of southern Africa (in this respect, the Council goes further than the EP, stipulating that markets will be open to all the ACP countries, not merely those in the region concerned); - involve the South African Government in multi-annual programming activities. The Council rejected the other amendments, which had already been rejected by the Commission. The Council did, however, make the following changes to the Commission text: - in Article 1, it drew attention to the issue of human rights; - it made provision for a new programming procedure similar to that used under the second financial protocol to Lomé IV concerning cooperation with the ACP countries; - it included provisions on transparency, stipulating a degree of information for the Member States on preparations for, funding and assessment of projects similar to that applicable under the EDF; - it inserted an expiry date (31 December 1999) in the Regulation, together with a financial package of ECU 500 million; - lastly, with regard to comitology, the Council made provision for a type IIIa committee (instead of the IIa committee proposed by the Commission), i.e. a regulatory committee rather than a management committee.