8th EDF: draft financial regulation. 4th ACP-EEC convention amended by the agreement of 4 November 1995

1996/0307(CNS) - 03/02/1998

The Committee adopted the report by Terry WYNN (PES, UK) on the financial regulation for the eighth European Development Fund. While emphasising the committee's full commitment to EU development and cooperation policies, the report proposes that Parliament refuse to give an opinion on the draft financial regulation presented by the Commission. The point at issue is an old bone of contention between Parliament and the Council: Parliament has repeatedly called for the EDF to be incorporated in the Community budget. If it were, Parliament could exercise real budgetary power over it (adoption of budgets, consultation on related financial regulations, discharge). The Council, however, has consistently refused to allow it to be brought within the EU budget. In Case C 316/91 the EU Court of Justice ruled that development funds do not constitute Community expenditure and that consultation of Parliament by the Council is only optional.