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

1995/0110(SYN) - 12/02/2001 - Follow-up document

This document presents the 1999 annual report for the European Programme for Reconstruction and Development in South Africa. Council Regulation 2259/96/EC established a legal base for development cooperation with South Africa, the programme being entitled the European Programme for Reconstruction and Development in South Africa (EPRD). Article 9 of the Regulation states that the Commission shall submit an annual report on implementation of this Regulation to the European Parliament and the Council. This is the third such report, covering financial year 1999, the final year of validity of the legal base, the Regulation expiring on 31 December 1999. The EPRD budget allocation for 1999 was EUR 127.5 million for commitments and EUR 80 million for payments. In its conclusions, the report indicates that cooperation activities had gone through a period of substantial re-direction and restructuring following the agreement of the Strategy Paper and Multi-Annual Indicative Programme in 1997. Both the European Commission and the SA Government engaged in an ongoing exercise to streamline further (procedural aspects, integration with the Lomé Convention) and to consolidate the achievements to date. 1999 was an exceptionally rich year in terms of the European Commission's cooperation programme with South Africa and many lessons were drawn from this prgramme since 1997 with a view to defining a new coopertion strategy for the next three years, paying particular attention to the strengths and weaknesses of past approaches and the result of this will form the basis of the next cooperation framework. Beyond the implementation of the EPRD, it can be seen that during 1999 much time and effort was given over to defining the framework of future cooperation wih South Africa, with a draft Regulation for the period 2000-2006 under discussion, a Strategy document elaborated and approved and a draft MIP 2000-2006 prepared, and a first blue-print for a decentralised form of management of the global development cooperation programme on the table. Lastly, the report also notes that it is necessary to increase the payment credits for the current year (2000) and for 2001 to be able to follow the progress achieved in recent years in the implementation of the EPRD.