EC staff regulations: conditions of employment of non-permanent staff (amend. Regulation (EEC) No 259/68)

2001/0104(CNS) - 17/05/2001 - Legislative proposal

PURPOSE: to present a Commission proposal for a Council regulation on amending Regulation (EEC, Euratom, ECSC) No 259/68 laying down the Staff Regulations of officials and the conditions of employment of other servants of the European Communities. CONTENT: This proposal must be viewed against the background of the Commission's White Paper 'Reforming the Commission', the Commission Communicaiton of 26 July 2000 'Matching the Commission's activities with its human resources' and the phasing out of Technical Assistance Offices. The proposal calls for the recruitment of non-permanent staff with relevant experience and on the basis of appropriate employment conditions in order to meet the following objectives: - to recruit external staff able to perform tasks related to the execution of Community policies independently of the various models of externalisation that may become operational. Such staff should be employed to carry out tasks under the effective control of officials; - to increase the number of non-permanent staff with experience of executive tasks, particularly programme management and implementation; - to increase the maximum duration of the assignment to ensure greater cost-effectiveness and guarantee the continuity required for managing programmes effectively. It is planned to use Part B of the budget to finance at least some of the required additional non-permanent staff. Since such staff must be subject to the high professional standards laid down in the Staff Regulations, auxiliary staff must be used. This is the only category of non-permanent staff that is bound by these rules and can be financed from Part B of the budget. However, the Staff Regulations limit auxiliary contracts to a maximum of 12 months. This is a major constraint on proper cost-effective use of this category of staff. Therefore, in order to improve the use of auxiliary staff, it is proposed that the maximum authorised period of employment for auxiliary staff be extended to three years.