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

1995/0110(SYN) - 26/06/1996

Adopting the report by Mme Maren GÜNTHER, the committee approved the regulation laying down the legal basis and modus operandi for managing the financial resources allocated by the Community to the European programme for the reconstruction and development of South Africa. However, the Committee on Development and Cooperation called for the date of expiry of the regulation (31 December 1999), which it felt constituted a constraint on South Africa and could send out the wrong political message, to be deleted. It also called for the reference to a financial reference amount of ECU 500 million for the implementation of the regulation between 1996 and 1999 to be deleted. It considered that this reference could reduce Parliament's powers as an arm of the budgetary authority. The Committee on Development and Cooperation also called for the head of the Commission delegation in South Africa to be able to authorize expenditure for projects and actions funded under this regulation up to a ceiling of ECU 500,000. Finally, it called for a management committee (IIa) rather than a regulatory committee (IIIa), as the Council had wished. It hoped that the Committee on Development and Cooperation would be able to assist this committee as an observer