European Maritime Safety Agency: competence

2003/0159(COD) - 06/08/2003 - Legislative proposal

PURPOSE : to widen the European Maritime Safety Agency's competence in order to improve maritime safety and security. CONTENT : in the aftermath of the Erika and Prestige disasters, maritime safety legislation has been drastically improved to guarantee the highest level of environment protection to European shores and waters. The Commission is determined to ensure that these rules are adequately and strictly applied. The newly established European Maritime Safety Agency provided the appropriate framework for developing concrete pollution response actions at Community level. In order to give to the Agency the competence and the means to act, the Commission proposes to amend accordingly Regulation 1406/2002 which established the Agency. To this end, Regulation 1406/2002 has to be amended to: - provide the Agency with the legal competence and the appropriate means to fight accidental and illicit pollution caused by ships. The actions undertaken by the Agency will supplement the efforts of Member States and provide added value to the Community framework for co-operation in the field of marine pollution and civil protection and the Community mechanism in the field of civil protection; - enlarge the objectives of the Agency in order to cover the field of maritime security, allowing the Agency to supplement the Community policy in this field in line with the Commission Communication on enhancing maritime transport security; - further define the Agency's competence in the field of the training of seafarers in order to reflect the enlarged role attributed to the Commission and to the Agency in line with the revision of Directive 2001/25/EC on the minimum level of training of seafarers. FINANCIAL STATEMENT : - Budget lines : 06020201 and 06020202: European Maritime Safety Agency (Subsidy for titles 1, 2 and 3), 06020203: European Maritime Safety Agency (Subsidy for anti-pollution measures); - Period of application : indefinite, starting in 2004; - Anti-pollution measures (budget line 06020203): European Maritime Safety Agency: an budget of EUR 20 million have been programmed by the Commission for each year of the period 2004-2006, subject to revision in line with future decisions by the legislative authority. An amount of EUR 20 million has been allocated in the 2004 Draft Community budget for this action; - Support activities for the 3 activities provided for in the Regulation (studies, meetings and publications) (budget line 06020202) EUR 650 000 for the period 2004-2006; - Impact on staff and administrative expenditure : 25 posts in total (3 permanent and 22 temporary); - Overall financial impact of human resources (2004-2006) (budget lines 06020201 and 06020202) :EUR 3 240 000 for 12 months.