

Multiannual programme for enterprise and entrepreneurship, and in particular for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) (2001-2005)

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In the light of the failure of the Joint European Venture (JEV) programme for small and medium-sized firms (SMEs), the committee adopted the report by Paul RÜBIG (PES, D) broadly approving the Commission's proposal to phase out the JEV programme as soon as possible and return the unspent funds to the EU budget. It tabled just a few amendments under the 1st reading of the codecision procedure. One of these stressed that the purpose of the programmes must be to address efficiently market failures in the access of SMEs to risk capital through enhancing participation of both private and public actors. The committee also called on the Commission to present an annual report to Parliament and Council on the implementation of the financial instruments of the programme for 2004 as well as a similar end report for 2005 (the final year).