Fight against organized crime: evaluation of national application of international undertakings

1997/0912(CNS) - 04/11/1997

The Committee adopted by a large majority the report by Leoluca ORLANDO (Greens, I) endorsing the draft Joint Action proposed by the Council. The aim of the Action is to make the fight against organised crime more effective. Parliament is being consulted in accordance with Article K.6 of the EU Treaty (consultation procedure, third pillar). This action seeks to establish a mechanism for evaluating the application and implementation at national level of international undertakings in the fight against organized crime. The proposals for the measure are the fruit of the work carried out by the High Level Group appointed by the European Council in Dublin in December 1996, which drew up an action plan to combat organized crime, containing 15 policy guidelines and 30 specific recommendations. The Luxembourg Presidency has already worked on this document. The committee believes that the Council's view of the matter, based on an intergovernmental approach, should gradually give way to a Community-based approach, with the aim of the bringing the third pillar within the Community ambit. It therefore advocates strengthening the role of the Commission in the whole evaluation procedure. In addition, to ensure maximum transparency, Parliament should be kept regularly informed, on a six-monthly basis, of the proceedings and recommendations of the Multidisciplinary Working Party on Organized Crime (MDW) and those of the Council.