European monitoring centre for drugs and addiction EMCDDA: assistance to applicant countries (amend. Regulation (EEC) No 302/93)

1999/0187(CNS) - 23/05/2000

The committee adopted the report (consultation procedure) by Sérgio SOUSA PINTO amending the proposal on the regulation establishing a European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA). The committee endorsed the general objective of the Commission proposal (to allow structural and technical assistance projects for the applicant central and eastern European countries (CEECs) to be included among the Centre's objectives). However, it also felt that the regulation should be extended to cover technical assistance provided by the EMCDDA not only to those applicant countries but also to other countries which are party to agreements concluded with the EU providing for the exchange of drugs-related information. It accordingly sought to clarify the legal framework by ensuring that the regulation specifically referred to the applicant CEEC countries, Turkey (which has now been recognised as an applicant country and also represents an important link in international anti-drug cooperation), Cyprus and Malta, together with other countries eligible for the PHARE programme and certain third countries with which the EU has established cooperation instruments. The committee also drew attention to the criticisms contained in the March 2000 report assessing the Centre's activities, in particular concerning the workings of the European Network on Drugs and Drug Addiction (REITOX) and of the Centre's Management Board. It took the view that, at a time when the Monitoring Centre is being given new tasks and the regulation on which it is based is being amended, the conclusions contained in the assessment report should be taken into consideration so that the REITOX network and the management board function satisfactorily.