TACIS: assistance to the New Independent States of the former USSR and Mongolia (amend. regul. 2053/93/EEC)

1995/0056(CNS) - 17/10/1995

In submitting the report, the Committee approved the proposal for a regulation, subject to a number of amendments. The Committee set the duration of the programme from 1 January 1996 to 31 December 2001 and emphasized the importance of measures designed to strengthen democracy by the setting up of new structures for programmes in the fields of culture, education, health and social protection. It also approved support for environmental programmes, with special attention given to nuclear safety (the Committee provided for the financing of impact studies and environmental audits). In addition, the Committee stressed the need for measures which were aimed at promoting cross-border cooperation, adding that cross-border projects could be funded jointly by PHARE and INTERREG. It also called for projects already underway to be subjected to a continuous process of qualitative monitoring, control and assessment. The Committee wished to see those benefitting from Community aid being involved not only in the planning and execution of the projects, but also in the funding process. The actions concerned should be identified and planned at regional level. It therefore called on the Commission to set up an appropriate level of local representation. The Committee stressed the importance of permanent coordination between the Commission and its agencies in the beneficiary countries, and the Member States. It called for Parliament to be consulted before the Council took any action against a partner State which defaulted in its obligations under the programme of cooperation and aid, particularly where there has been a violation of the principles of democracy, human rights and the rights of minorities or where there has been serious abuse of the use of funds. The Committee pointed out that the Community granted aid either on an autonomous basis or in co-financing partnership with the Member States, the EIB, non-member countries, multilateral organisations or with the beneficiary countries themselves. As regards commitology, the Committee made provision for the Commission to be assisted by an advisory committee composed of representatives of the Member States and chaired by a representative of the Commission.