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

1995/0056(CNS) - 15/04/1996

The REX Committee adopted more than thirty amendments substantially modifying the new proposal for a regulation. According to the rapporteur, the position adopted by the Council reflected a deep mistrust for the Commission and defined binding procedures in minute detail, to a point which was unprecedented in the history of the EU. The amendments adopted by the REX Committee were intended primarily to provide more effective protection of human rights, particularly minority rights and the rights of indigenous peoples. The REX Committee took the view that environmental protection and public health, as provided for under the programme, would help guarantee the long-term viability of the economic reforms. The Committee stressed the need for crossborder cooperation and the setting up of programmes on culture, education and social protection. It also recommended that the programme should run for a period of five years, rather than the three years proposed by the Commission. In general terms the REX Committee sought to guarantee the Commission greater autonomy from the Council in the management of this programme.