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

1995/0056(CNS) - 12/04/1995 - Legislative proposal

This proposal for a regulation aimed to provide assistance to the New Independent States of the former USSR and to Mongolia (TACIS II programme) from 1 January 1996. The assistance aimed to help the beneficiaries to commit to a process of economic reform and liberalisation. To benefit from this assistance, the countries concerned (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, Uzbekistan and Mongolia) should unconditionally agree to work towards a political democracy and to implement structural reforms in all the economic sectors covered by the assistance. A flagrant violation of these principles by any country could lead to immediate suspension of the assistance. The assistance would take the form of non-refundable grants. The financial statement annexed to the Commission's proposal provided for an envelope of ECU 2 734 million over five years (1995-1999). A four-year indicative programme established for each of the partner states would determine the principal objectives of and guidelines for Community assistance. Action programmes or national projects would be adopted on the basis of this indicative programme each year in all the areas of action of the TACIS programme: human resources development (education, training, restructuring of public administration, employment services, legal assistance, etc.), enterprise restructuring and development (emphasis was placed on the creation of joint ventures through support for SMEs), transport and telecommunications infrastructures, energy, and food production, processing and distribution. Particular emphasis was placed on nuclear safety, the environment and promotion of the participation of women in social and economic life. Similarly, TACIS would encourage the promotion of cooperation between states (particularly by financing border-crossing facilities on borders between the New Independent States and the Union, between the New Independent States themselves, and between the New Independent States and Central European countries eligible under the PHARE programme). The TACIS programme would be implemented on a decentralised basis as far as possible, particularly with a view to promoting local synergies and placing greater emphasis on the Community presence. With regard to comitology, the Commission proposed implementing the programme with the assistance of a management committee composed of representatives of the Member States and chaired by a representative of the Commission.