EC-United States agreement: cooperation programme for higher education and professional training

1995/0094(CNS) - 12/04/1995 - Legislative proposal

This proposal for a decision aimed to conclude a cooperation agreement between the Community and the USA in the field of higher education and vocational education and training for a period of five years (from the date of its entry into force). The agreement was specifically designed to cover higher education and vocational training and to promote interaction between the two where necessary. It also aimed to encourage interaction between higher education institutions, training establishments and business. The agreement could be extended by mutual agreement and provided for the following categories of activities: - joint projects carried out by partners (EC/USA): these partners may comprise higher education institutions, professional training establishments or a combination of both. The partners were encouraged to involve other relevant bodies in their activities as associate members (such as NGOs, chambers of commerce, businesses, etc.). The partnerships should be responsive to the need for structural cooperation between staff and teachers and seek to broaden and enhance student exchanges. In order to maximise the advantages brought by the multilateral character of the cooperation agreement, the partnerships should comprise at least three partners from each side of the Atlantic, two of which should be based in different Member States of the Community and in the States of the USA, respectively; - complementary measures, comprising, in particular, work experience exchanges in the area of higher education and professional training in order to strengthen the dialogue between the European Community and the United States of America, the dissemination of information on education and professional training, the provision of technical assistance to support the programme and the granting of scholarships under the Fullbright Programme for nationals from EC countries and from the USA with a view to the study and teaching of Community issues and EC/USA relations. An annex to the agreement specified the actions which were eligible under the present agreement. A joint committee was set up composed of representatives from the EC and the USA whose purpose was to assess the cooperation activities provided for in the programme. With regard to financing, the cooperation activities were to be funded equally by the two parties. As far as the Community's contribution was concerned, the Commission set aside a budget of ECU 6.5 million over a period of 5 years.