EC/Nepal agreement: cooperation agreement

1995/0256(CNS) - 19/10/1995 - Legislative proposal

OBJECTIVE: decision on the conclusion of a cooperation agreement between the Community and Nepal aimed at helping Nepal to expand its trade with the Community and at bolstering its economic development. SUBSTANCE: the agreement, founded on respect for human rights and democratic principles, covers the following areas of cooperation: . trade: most-favoured nation status is granted for customs duties, in accordance with the 1994 GATT provisions. These do not apply to preferences granted by each party under an agreement establishing a customs union, a free trade area or a preferential treatment zone (the Community has promised to help Nepal make best use of the advantages afforded by the 1995 GSP); measures are to be implemented to remove barriers to trade (particularly non-tariff barriers); customs cooperation; promotion of investment; protection of intellectual, industrial and commercial property rights (particularly copyright, including software, trademarks, designs and models, integrated circuit diagrams and protection against unfair competition); . development cooperation: the Community will provide aid to implement projects to help the most deprived sections of the Nepalese population (the operations will seek, in particular, to promote balanced agricultural development and to create employment in rural areas); . economic cooperation: improving general economic conditions in Nepal, developing contacts between economic operators and facilitating the exchange of information (particularly among SMEs), promoting greater understanding of the respective economic, social and cultural environments; . scientific and technical cooperation: fostering two-way interinstitutional relations; . energy/environment: protecting natural forests and the urban environment; measures to combat industrial pollution and pollution of water, soil and air and to cushion the impact of tourism on the environment, etc.; . combating drugs and AIDS: preventing and reducing drug addiction and AIDS; . regional cooperation: promoting inter-regional trade with other countries in southern Asia (SAARC); supporting projects at regional level and promoting regional communications. The agreement establishes a joint committee, consisting of members of the Commission and representatives of the Member States and Nepal, which meets every two years to determine the priority objectives among the measures to be provided for in the agreement and to ensure that the agreement is being properly implemented. The agreement includes a clause relating to future developments. DURATION OF THE AGREEMENT: the agreement is initially valid for five years and may be renewed tacitly thereafter.