TEMPUS II: Trans-European cooperation scheme for higher education, 1 July 1994 to 30 June 2000

1996/0133(CNS) - 08/05/1996 - Legislative proposal

OBJECTIVE: the proposal aims to amend Decision 93/246/EEC with a view to extending the second phase of the Trans-European Cooperation Scheme for Higher Education (TEMPUS II) (1994-1998) for a period of two years. CONTENT: the Commission is proposing extending the TEMPUS II programme until 30 June 2000 in line with the PHARE and TACIS programmes, which will receive funding until the end of 1999. * In the TACIS countries (Republics of the former USSR and Mongolia), where considerable assistance is still required, the programme must be extended in order to: - help secure a diversified, decentralised and independent higher education system; - develop new courses and teaching material in key sectors; - introduce new teaching methods, train teaching staff and boost the capacity of higher education; - modernise the management of universities to enable higher education establishments to adapt to a market economy; * In the associated Central and Eastern European PHARE countries, which have benefited from the TEMPUS programme since 1990, actions will concentrate on four key areas: - preparing for the accession of these countries to the Community and, with this in mind, establishing the professional qualifications needed for a single market: institutions in the partner countries must be able to meet European standards in the fields where they are lacking, particularly as regards management and quality; - preparing higher education establishments to participate on an equal footing in the European Union's education and training programmes (Socrates and Leonardo) so as to encourage, in particular, the recognition of periods of study in the student mobility scheme; - enhancing cooperation between higher education establishments and business undertakings (e.g. helping to create interfaces between universities and businesses that promote applied research); - support political initiatives to reform higher education: emphasis will placed on structural reforms (e.g. the creation of short and vocational courses) and on promoting what has been achieved by TEMPUS by making its results more widely available. The actions provided for under TEMPUS (joint European projects, structural and complementary measures, individual mobility grants and support measures) described in the annex to the proposal remain largely unchanged. However, students from associated PHARE countries receiving mobility grants under Socrates and Leonardo will not be able to obtain mobility grants or support for practical training under TEMPUS. As in the past, the Commission will ensure permanent monitoring of the implementation of the activities under the TEMPUS programme. Moreover, the draft decision proposes that the programme should be evaluated at the end of the second phase and that an interim report should be submitted to the Council no later than 30 April 1998 along with proposals for the possible extension of the TEMPUS programme from 1 July 2000 for partner countries not yet qualifying for Socrates and Leonardo. A final report is also scheduled for 30 June 2004.