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

1995/0056(CNS) - 08/05/1996 - Modified legislative proposal

In its amended proposal, the Commission took over 27 of the 36 amendments put forward by Parliament in its opinion. The Commission welcomed, in particular, the amendments which: - aimed to extend the duration of the regulation to six years, - hoped to ensure proper monitoring, audits and evaluations of the projects to make it possible to identify and correct implementation problems, - tightened up the provisions requiring the Commission to account for its activities before the other European institutions, - hoped to reinforce cofinancing between the various donors, - aimed to improve the financing of infrastructures, particularly with regard to cross-border cooperation, - strengthened the role of the environment, public health and intercultural exchanges in the programme, - reinforced the conditional nature of assistance and introduced respect for the rights of minorities and indigenous peoples as a key element of assistance, - promoted the future decentralisation of the programme's management towards recipient countries, - proposed the review of some of the programme's implementation methods, such as maintaining the threshold for direct agreement contracts at ECU 300 000, or promoted the participation of enterprises from PHARE and TACIS countries in the programme, - aimed to strengthen the role of NGOs in the provision of assistance, - tried to promote the multiplier and spin-off effects of the projects. However, the Commission did not accept the amendments which: - prevented the Commission from amending the annexes during the programme, - related to comitology issues (a management committee was preferable to an advisory committee), - required the EP to be consulted before aid could be suspended, - permitted the consultation of external experts for the supervision of the projects, - reduced the role of technical assistance in projects eligible for funding, - amended certain implementation methods (particularly with regard to the time limit for tenders).