Palestine, refugees: 9th EC-UNRWA Convention 1996-1998 prior to signature of the Convention

1996/0154(CNS) - 10/06/1996 - Legislative proposal

OBJECTIVE: the proposal for a decision is aimed at the conclusion of a Ninth Convention between the EC and UNRWA for the Community contribution to UNRWA's regular programme of education and health services, and its special programme of food aid (1996-1998). SUBSTANCE: the appropriations proposed under the new Convention are intended as a contribution towards the financing of UNRWA's regular programme for some 2.8 million Palestine refugees in five fields of operation: Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. Under the Ninth Convention, the Community will make a contribution to UNRWA's education and health programmes of: Mecu 34.1 in 1996, Mecu 35.3 in 1997, and Mecu 36.5 in 1998 (a total of Mecu 105.9 for the three years, which represents a year-on-year increase in the Community contribution of 6.6%, 3.5% and 3.4%, and an average annual increase of 4.5% over the three-year period). The aid will be distributed as follows: - education programme (Mecu 88.3): the objective of this programme is to meet the basic educational needs of Palestine refugees (education provided to 400.000 pupils); - general health programme (Mecu 10.8): this programme is community-based (983.000 refugees in March 1995) and places the emphasis on primary health care; - other contributions to the health programme (Mecu 6.8): family planning, control of non-communicable diseases, containment of hospital services costs, environmental health, nutrition; - food aid programme: UNRWA asks for the new Convention to allow for the annual negotiation of the Community contribution in kind to UNRWA's programme of food aid.