Safety, hygiene and health at work: 4th Community programme(SAVE) 1996-2000

1995/0155(CNS) - 09/01/1997 - Modified legislative proposal

In its amended proposal the Commission has generally taken account of the amendments adoptedd by the European Parliament in plenary which follow the Council's approach by limiting the Decision to the SAFE programme (and setting on one side the non-legislative measures in the initial text). In particular, the following amendments have been taken into account which seek to: - make the SAFE programme a Community programme and give it a clearer aim: to improve safety and health at work and reduce occupational risks particularly in small and medium-sized enterprises. SAFE should support at European level actions designed to improve the work environment, work organization and working practices (the Commission takes over the five main aims defined by Parliament in this respect: . the development of practical solutions to workplace risks, . dissemination of best practices for combating occupational accidents, . more effective implementation of Community legislation, . promoting innovative approaches to emerging areas of occupational risk, . promoting education and training aimed at improving knowledge of Community legislation); - ensure the complementarity with the actions undertaken by the European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions and the European Agency for Safety and Health at Work; - improve the procedure for the selection of projects to be financed under SAFE (applications for financing should be submitted to the Commission either by the competent bodies designated by the Member States or directly). In this area the Commission has taken over Parliament's amendment concerning the rate of the Community financial contribution: in general, 60% of the cost of the project and up to 90% for SMEs of less than 50 employees; - clarify the annexes to the proposal: SAFE will give support in particular to projects which meet a certain number of criteria set out in Annex I of the proposal. With regard to the general selection criteria set out in the former Annex III of the proposal, the Commission has taken over the clarifications made by Parliament (in particular: Community added value, relevant to the needs of SMEs, cost-effectiveness ratio, etc.). The additional criteria added by Parliament have also been taken over; - maintain the active role played by the Advisory Committee on Safety, Hygiene and Health Protection at Work (the Commission has not however taken over the amendments on the transparency of this committee's opinion and those seeking to extend the committee meetings to the employers and trade union organizations); - prepare the result evaluation and dissemination criteria for the actions undertaken in collaboration with the European Agency for Safety and Health at Work (provision is made for two reports: a mid-term report on the action undertaken in June 1998 and the overall assessment report in 2001). The Commission also states that apart from this amendment, presented pursuant to Article 189a(2) of the EU Treaty, it reserves the right to present a second text for a Council Decision on the non-legislative parts of its initial proposal.