Community programmes in training, youth and education: participation of the Czech Republic

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OBJECTIVE: the opening of the LEONARDO, Youth for Europe III and SOCRATES programmes to the Czech Republic and definition of the management conditions and implementing methods for this participation. SUBSTANCE: the draft decision of the EC-Czech Republic Association Council adopting the terms and conditions for the participation of this country in Community programmes in the fields of training, youth and education deals mainly with the following areas: - the Czech Republic will participate in all measures and actions of Leonardo, Socrates and Youth for Europe in principle on the same footing as the Member States of the Community; - a minimum number of partners from EC Member States will be required for all transnational projects proposed by the Czech Republic; - the Czech Republic shall set up or make available national structures and mechanisms in order to implement its participation; - it should make a financial contribution to the Community budget to cover its participation in these three programmes. This participation will cover the subsidies or other financial aid granted to Czech participants, financial support for the functioning of the national agencies, supplementary administrative costs related to the management of the programmes by the Commission. The contribution is set at: . ECU 3 343 000 for the Socrates programme in 1997 (given that Erasmus will not be open that year) then at ECU 5 186 000 a year in 1998 and 1999, . ECU 2 654 000 a year for the Leonardo programme, . ECU 600 000 a year for the Youth for Europe programme, - best efforts will be made to facilitate the free movement and residence of students, teachers, etc.; - the Czech Republic will be associated in the monitoring of its participation in the programmes and will be invited to coordination meetings prior to the meetings of the Programmes Committee (in particular to allow this country to participate actively in the internal Community process on the same footing as the Member States and thus to make this country familiar, with a view to accession, with the Community's decision-making process). It will also be kept informed about the results of these committees; - the Czech Republic's participation will apply for the duration of the programmes (i.e. until 31 December 1999).