Energy: international cooperation, multiannual programme SYNERGY 1998-2002

1997/0369(CNS) - 18/11/1997 - Legislative proposal

OBJECTIVE: to establish a specific multiannual international cooperation programme in fields of mutual interest with third countries (SYNERGY), as part of the framework programme for energy 1998-2002 (CNS97302). SUBSTANCE: the Commission proposes continuing the SYNERGY programme, which concerns: - assistance in preparing, formulating and implementing the energy policies of third countries; - promotion of industrial cooperation between the Community and third countries in the field of energy; - stepping up the coordination of the Community's external action in the field of energy. The SYNERGY programme, for which the Commission proposes a budget of ECU 36.4 m for 1998-2002, will in particular support projects designed to: - improve energy efficiency in third countries; - promote the use of environmentally benign technology; - promote the exploitation of local resources, particularly renewable energy sources; - assist regional energy integration in third countries and the opening up of this sector; - promote dialogue on energy policy and contacts between Europe, third countries and particularly producing countries and international energy organizations; - support the penetration of European energy enterprises in third countries; - strengthen links between experts and decision-makers in the field of energy within the Community and between the Community and third countries. Community participation will not normally exceed 50% of the total cost of a project, and may be implemented on a co-financing basis with third countries, Member States or international organizations. The programme will also support the Union's external relations policy and help pave the way for the accession of Central and Eastern European countries.