

European Environment Agency, European information and observation (amend. Regulation (EEC) No 1210/90)

1997/0168(SYN) - 24/03/1998 - Modified legislative proposal

In its amended proposal concerning the amendment to the regulation on the establishment of the European Environment Agency, the Commission wholly or partially incorporates six of the nine amendments adopted by Parliament at first reading. These amendments are concerned with: - the scope of the report on the state of the environment: this should cover future trends and prospects in this area, - the Agency's multiannual budget, which should be linked to its multiannual work programme, - the information to be provided by the Agency: this is information needed to frame and implement environmental policy, - the fact that other Institutions, as well as the Commission, may request support on the monitoring of environmental measures, - the establishment of a data register on the environment, - dissemination of the Agency's information in all the Community official languages and enlarging the scope of dissemination of information on the state of the environment, - the review of the Agency's tasks which must be placed in the overall context of the EU's environmental policy; the report will be made available to Parliament. However, the Commission does not consider it necessary for the Agency to draw up reports and critical reviews on its own initiative, considering that this could be interpreted as a monitoring and inspection role which would be incompatible with its objectives. Moreover, the general review will not include a cost-effectiveness analysis of the Agency's activities as proposed by Parliament. The Commission did not adopt the amendments aiming to ensure cooperation between the Agency and the Commission with a view to supporting implementation of environmental legislation. It does not wish the Agency to supply information of direct use in implementing Community legislation in this area. The Commission did not adopt Parliament's proposals on the priorities of the Agency's work programme (air and soil pollution) or on cooperation between the Agency and non-Member States.