Refugees, displaced persons, asylum seekers: voluntary repatriation and reception, Kosovo emergency assistance

1998/0357(CNS) - 13/04/1999 - Modified legislative proposal

The amended proposal seeks to respond to the decision of the Extraordinary Council (Justice & Home Affairs) meeting of 07.04.1999 concerning events in Kosovo, when the Commission was invited to come forward with a proposal which would enable financial assistance to be provided from the Community budget, if needed, to those Member States which agree to accept refugees from the conflict region. The proposal makes provision for the provision of emergency assistance for the reception in the Member States of displaced persons, asylum applicants and refugees who have fled from Kosovo as a result of recent events in that region or who have fled from other regions in comparable circumstances. The financial assistance would be limited in time to six months following arrival and would mainly cover costs such as immediate accommodation, means of subsistence and medical expenses. These changes are completely in line with the budgetary commentary on budget line B5-803 and with the report of the rapporteur in the Civil Liberties Committee of the European Parliament (Wilmya ZIMMERMANN - PES, D). It should be noted that the new financial statement of this amended proposal states that in view of the uncertainty of the situation in Kosovo, it is not possible to estimate precisely the emergency aid needs of Kosovan refugees.