European monitoring centre for drugs and addiction EMCDDA: assistance to applicant countries (amend. Regulation (EEC) No 302/93)

1999/0187(CNS) - 09/09/1999 - Legislative proposal

PURPOSE : to complement Regulation 302/93/EEC establishing a European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA) in order to extend the activities of the EMCDDA to candidate countries, by means of the PHARE Multi-Beneficiary Drugs Programme. CONTENT : in the framework of the European Action Plan to Combat Drugs 2000-2004 (ref: procedure 1999/2095/COS) and the general strategy which this lays down in particular with regard to candidate countries, the Commission is proposing to complement the current Regulation 302/93/EEC establishing the EMCDDA and extending its activities to the applicant countries and to progressively organise the participation of these countries in the main tasks of the REITOX network (EMCDDA is reponsible for establishing and coordinating, in collaboration with the Member States, a European Network on Drugs and Drug Addiction which is called REITOX). However, Regulation 302/93/EEC does not provide for the possibility for the Centre itself to implement structural and technical assistance projects. This is why the present proposal aims at enabling the Observatory, with the financial support of the existing Community programmes, to provide structural and technical assistance in the field of drugs information systems to those applicant countries willing to participate in the EMCDDA. In the framework of the PHARE Multi-Beneficiary Programme for the Fight Against Drugs, the PHARE project on Drug Information Systems (DIS), which began in 1993 aimed at providing assistance to the central and eastern European countries (CEECs) for the development and strenghtening of information systems and networks for the collection, processing and distribution of data concerning drugs and drug addiction in the CEECs. This is done mainly by providing information, know-how, training and technical equipment to the partner countries. The idea is to directly entrust the EMCDDA with the implementation of PHARE funded projects in the field of the drugs information system. The objective contains an important institutional building component which aims at strengthening the role of the National Focal Points from the applicant countries of central and eastern Europe in order to reflect the multi-disciplinary mandate of the EMCDDA. Special attention will be given to the central and eastern European countries, including those which are not applicant countries but which are part of the PHARE Multi-Beneficiary Drugs Programme, that is, Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina and the FYROM.