EC-United States agreement: cooperation programme for higher education and professional training

1995/0094(CNS) - 23/10/1995 - Final act

-OBJECTIVE: conclusion of a cooperation agreement between the European Community and the United States of America in the fields of higher education, vocational education and professional training for a period of 5 years. - COMMUNITY MEASURE: Decision 95/487/EC on the conclusion of an agreement between the European Community and the United States of America establishing a programme of cooperation in the fields of higher education, vocational education and professional training. - SUBSTANCE: The agreement is intended specifically to cover higher education and vocational education and to promote interaction between the two, where necessary. The agreement also encourages interaction between institutions of higher education, training establishments and the professions. The agreement is renewable by common accord and provides for the following categories of activity: . joint projects undertaken by the partners (EC/USA): the latter may comprise institutions of higher education, professional training establishments or a combination of both. The parties are encouraged to involve other relevant bodies in their activities, as associate members (e.g. NGOs, chambers of commerce, businesses, etc.). The partnerships should be aimed at establishing structural cooperation between personnel and teaching staff and should seek to extend and promote student exchanges. In order to maximize the advantages brought by the multilateral character of the Cooperation Agreement, the partnerships shall comprise at least 3 partners from each side of the Atlantic, two of which shall be based in the different Member States of the Community and in the States of the USA, respectively; . complementary measures, comprising in particular work experience exchanges in the area of higher education and professional training, in order to strengthen the dialogue between the European Community and the United States of America, the dissemination of information on education and professional training, the provision of technical assistance to support the programme and the granting of scholarships under the Fullbright Programme for nationals from EC countries and from the USA with a view to the study and teaching of Community issues and EC/USA relations. An Annex to the Agreement specifies the actions which are eligible under the present Agreement. A joint committee is set up comprising representatives from the EC and the USA whose purpose is to assess the cooperation activities provided for in the programme. - Financing: The cooperation activities are to be funded equally by the two parties. As far as Community participation is concerned, a budget of ECU 6.5 m is provided over a period of 5 years. - ENTRY INTO FORCE: one month after the parties have notified each other that all the necessary procedures have been completed.