EC/Nepal agreement: cooperation agreement

1995/0256(CNS) - 20/05/1996 - Final act

OBJECTIVE: Decision on the conclusion of a Cooperation Agreement between the Community and Nepal aimed at helping Nepal to expand its trade with the Community and at bolstering its economic development. COMMUNITY MEASURE: Council Decision 96/354/EC concerning the conclusion of the Cooperation Agreement between the European Community and the Kingdom of Nepal. CONTENT: the Agreement, founded on respect for human rights and democratic principles, covers the following spheres of cooperation: - trade: most-favoured-nation treatment is granted as regards customs duties, in accordance with the 1994 GATT provisions. These do not apply to the preferences accorded by each party under an agreement establishing a customs union, a free trade area, or a preferential treatment zone (the Community has promised to help Nepal make best use of the advantages afforded by the 1995 GSP); a systematic attempt is to be made to remove obstacles to trade (in particular non-tariff barriers); customs cooperation; promotion of investment; protection of intellectual, industrial and commercial property rights (including copyright protection, covering software, trade marks, designs, models, integrated circuit diagrams, and protection against unfair competition); - development cooperation: the Community will provide aid to implement projects to help the most deprived sections of the Nepalese population (the operations will seek in particular to promote balanced agricultural development and to create jobs in rural areas); - economic cooperation: improving general economic conditions in Nepal, fostering contacts between firms and encouraging exchanges of information (particularly among SMEs), promoting greater understanding of the respective economic, social and cultural environments; - scientific and technical cooperation: fostering two-way interinstitutional relations, particularly as regards standardisation and quality control; - energy/environment: protection of natural forests and the urban environment, measures to control industrial pollution and pollution of water, soil and air and to cushion the impact of tourism on the environment, etc.; - measures to combat drug abuse and AIDS: prevention and reduction of drug addiction and AIDS; - regional cooperation: promotion of inter-regional trade with other southern Asian countries (SAARC), support for projects at regional level and promotion of regional communications. A joint committee, consisting of members of the Commission and representatives of the Member States and Nepal, has been set up under the Agreement. It will meet every two years in order to determine the priority objectives among the measures provided for in the Agreement and to ensure that the Agreement is being properly implemented. The Agreement includes a clause relating to future developments. DURATION OF THE AGREEMENT: the Agreement is initially valid for five years and may be renewed tacitly thereafter. ENTRY INTO FORCE: 1 June 1996.