8th EDF: draft financial regulation. 4th ACP-EEC convention amended by the agreement of 4 November 1995

1996/0307(CNS) - 20/02/1998 - Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading

Adopting the report by Mr Terence Wynn (PSE, UK), Parliament reaffirmed its commitment to the EU's development and cooperation policies but refused to deliver an opinion on the Financial Regulation for the Eighth EDF. This reflects an old controversy between Parliament and the Council: Parliament has constantly advocated inclusion of the EDF in the Community budget, which would enable it to exercise its real budgetary powers (adoption of budgets, consultation on relevant financial regulations, discharge etc.). But the Council has consistently rejected budgetization of the European Development Fund. The Court of Justice (Case 316/91) took the view in its judgment that the Development Fund did not constitute a part of the Community's expenditure and that consultation of Parliament by the Council was only optional. Consequently, the refusal to deliver an opinion on the Financial Regulation of the Eighth EDF should not affect implementation of the development and cooperation policies. Parliament is merely expressing its opposition to the current procedure.