EC/South Africa relations: financial, technical and economic cooperation

1995/0110(SYN) - 22/11/1996 - Final act

OBJECTIVE: the regulation seeks to implement financial and technical cooperation with South Africa to support the policies and reforms carried out by that country. COMMUNITY MEASURE: Council Regulation 2259/96/EC on development cooperation with South Africa. SUBSTANCE: the aim of this programme entitled the 'European Programme for Reconstruction and Development in South Africa' is to contribute to that country's economic and social development and to consolidate the foundations laid for a democratic society and a State governed by the rule of law in which human rights and fundamental freedoms are respected. It supports in particular the poorest sections of the population in South Africa. - financial reference amount: ECU 500 million from 1 January 1996 to 31 December 1999; - operations to be undertaken: operations financed under this programme in the form of non-repayable aid concern: support for democratization and the protection of human rights, education and training, health, rural development and urban development (social housing), support of and cooperation with the private sector (in particular SMEs), strengthening of institutions and the organization of local communities, protection of the environment. The Community will take account of the South African Programme for Reconstruction and Development. Measures have been taken to ensure that the Community character of the actions is apparent and to ensure the coherence and complementarity of the steps taken with other activities of the Community and/or the Member States; - programming of operations: multiannual indicative programming is to be undertaken in close cooperation with the South African government. This programming will be based on a strategy document put forward by the Commission and examined by the South Africa Committee; Community financing: financing in local or foreign currency may cover investment (except for the purchase of buildings), and recurrent expenditure (administrative, maintenance and operating costs) for which the beneficiaries should ultimately take responsibility. A financial contribution from the partners will in principle be required for each cooperation operation and from other providers of funds (particularly the Member States). - cooperation partners: those eligible for financial assistance shall be national, provincial and local authorities and public bodies, non-governmental organizations and Community-based organizations, regional and international organizations, institutions and public or private operators. - decision-making procedure: the Commission is to be responsible for appraising, taking decisions on and managing projects. It will be assisted by a regulatory committee (type IIIa) consisting of representatives of the Member States. The Commission is also required to inform the committee succinctly in advance of any decision relating to projects of a value of under ECU 2 million. For decisions relating to larger amounts the decisions will be adopted with the agreement of the committee. - information: an annual report is to be forwarded to the European Parliament and the Council setting out the projects financed during the financial year and an appraisal (projects funded, etc.). appraisal: The Commission is to undertake regular appraisals in order to establish whether the objectives of the regulation have been reached. These appraisals will be made available to the Member States which request them. ENTRY INTO FORCE: the regulation will enter into force on 1 December 1996 and will expire on 31 December 1999.