Legal proceedings in the area of protection of financial interests

1998/2042(INI) - 31/03/1998 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

In adopting the report by Mrs Diemut THEATO (EPP, D) Parliament called in the short term for more efficient cooperation between national investigating authorities responsible for bringing criminal proceedings with a view to ensuring that the Union's finances were protected under the criminal law. A specialized body, namely UCLAF, should centralize information, coordinate the activities of the investigating authorities and provide them with technical and legal assistance. These tasks should be conferred on it through Community regulations. In the long term Parliament suggested the establishment of a European Public Prosecutor to coordinate a network of delegated national investigating authorities (as proposed in the 'Corpus Juris') in order to establish an embryonic European legal area to protect the Union's financial interests speedily and effectively. The Commission was called on to submit by June 1998 a report on the obstacles to be overcome with regard to the harmonization of criminal law and concerning the problems which could arise as regards the establishment of a European Public Prosecutor.