Audiovisual industry: MEDIA II 1996-2000, development and distribution of European works

1995/0027(CNS) - 16/06/1995 - Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading

The European Parliament approved this proposal for a decision subject to the following amendments: - the EP contested the legal basis of this proposal and called for the decision to be adopted according to the codecision procedure (addition of Article 128) rather than a simple consultation procedure; - Parliament felt that this programme should also include a "screening" aspect, providing, in particular, aid for cinemas; - in implementing the programme, priority should be given to structures originating in regions with a low production capacity and projects promoting cultural diversity. Particular attention should be paid to production projects developed by SMEs; - the EP clarified in detail the measures that should receive aid under the programme, including in particular: . as regards development, projects in the animation sector (including multimedia) and projects to restore old films or certain collections, . as regards distribution, the buying-back of distribution rights for European cinematographic productions and the creation of networks of both film distributors and cinemas to ensure widespread and simultaneous distribution of works throughout Europe, including the countries of Central and Eastern Europe. The EP also provided for specific support for small local and independent cinemas and encouraged television companies to distribute works produced through the MEDIA II programme. It called for the creation of centres for the purchase of rights with a view to creating catalogues to improve the distribution of works and guarantee their conservation and the making of copies; - the EP stressed that there should be adequate cooperation with Cyprus, Malta and the CEECs when implementing this programme; - as regards the management of the programme, the Commission would implement the programme in a decentralised form and should notify the EP on a regular basis of the projects selected; - as regards support, the EP stipulated that Community support should not exceed 75% for productions from Member States with a limited language area (instead of only 50%); - as regards comitology, the advisory committee assisting the Commission in implementing this programme should represent the cultural diversity of the Union. Furthermore, the budget allocated to the technical body provided for by the Commission to coordinate the implementation of MEDIA should not exceed 2% of the total budget earmarked for the programme.