Older People: Community support for actions in favor of Older People 1995-1999

1995/0062(CNS) - 22/09/1995 - Text adopted by Parliament, partial vote at 1st reading/single reading

In adopting the report by Mr CHANTERIE (PPE, B), the European Parliament approved the proposal for a decision which aimed not only to support actions in favour older people but also to establish a Community action programme aimed at ensuring the convergence of Member States' policies towards older people. However, pursuant to Rule 60(2) of the EP's Rules of Procedure, the rapporteur wished to postpone the vote on the legislative resolution to a later sitting in 1995, pending clarification of the Commission's position. In fact, the EP feared that during the discussions between the Council and Commission on this proposal, the Commission had not given any ground and the Council had in no way supported the spirit of the amendments tabled by the EP. The final vote had therefore been postponed. Nonetheless, the amendments adopted by the House at the sitting in September related to the following aspects: - clarification of the programme's objectives: . to identify ways to develop the role and potential of older people by identifying innovative roles within the family, society and employment; . to improve and possibly promote the situation of older women and the very old, the situation of older workers in the labour market, the transition from work to retirement, integrated informal care for older people, with particular reference to dependent older people, and solutions which facilitated the independent living of older people; . to strengthen solidarity between and within generations; - increase in the financial resources required for this action, from ECU 23 million to ECU 40 million (the budgetary authority should determine the appropriations available for each financial year); - the level of Community contribution should not, as a rule, exceed 50%, and in no circumstances 75% (the contribution should be granted in the form of repayable advances on loans or subsidies); - actions should be implemented in close cooperation with the NGOs working in the sector. With regard to the actions themselves: . establishment of a European Observatory on Ageing and Older People instructed to draw up an annual comparative report on the socio-economic situation of older people and policies in the Member States towards older people as well as an annual report on the implications of the Council's recommendations on social protection; . preparation of a European Old People's Passport, a Green Paper on demographic trends in Europe and a joint declaration by the Commission, Council and European Parliament on the general objectives of policy towards older people in the Union; . among the themes and priorities described in the annex, the EP stressed, in particular, that actions should encourage the independence of older people and the integration of older people in danger of isolation (older people in urban or remote areas and especially sick older people); the exchange of experiences and spread of best practice should be encouraged; - complementarity and cohesion of the activities to be undertaken under this programme and other relevant Community actions; - presentation of an interim report before 31 December 1997.