Displaced persons: temporary protection

1997/0081(CNS) - 23/10/1997 - Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading

In adopting the report by Mr Jan Kees WIEBENGA (ELDR, NL) on the protection of displaced persons, Parliament approved the proposal for a Joint Action with the following amendments: - the granting of financial compensation for countries assuming the heaviest responsibility in the event of a mass influx of persons into their territory, with a view to a better sharing of the burden between Member States. Should this not be sufficient, Parliament proposed that persons in need of international protection before or on arrival in the Union should be allocated to the Member States on the basis of the distribution key to be defined, - a maximum of five years for the duration of the protection regime, - application of the provisions of the Joint Action in strict compliance with the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights of 1950. The Joint Action is moreover a complement of the Geneva Convention. - the prior consultation of Parliament on the implementation measures under the Joint Action. - the provision to beneficiaries of the temporary protection regime of information on their rights and obligations in their own language and in the language of the host country. With regard to rights Parliament stipulated that, as far as possible, the beneficiaries should obtain the right to family reunification for their spouses and under-age children (Parliament also proposed specific assistance for that). -the return of displaced persons to their country of origin, on condition that their safety and respect for their fundamental rights are guaranteed, - refusal of the temporary protection regime for the same reasons as those given in the Geneva Convention on refugees (the Commission confined itself to a list of crimes such as crimes against humanity and serious non-political crimes).