International Fund for Ireland : financial contributions and evaluation report

1997/0116(CNS) - 15/12/1997 - Final act

OBJECTIVE: to continue the programmes of the International Fund for Ireland in 1998 and 1999. COMMUNITY MEASURE: Council Regulation (EC) No 2614/97 on Community financial contributions to the International Fund for Ireland. SUBSTANCE: the Regulation extends for two further years (1998 and 1999) the Community's financial contribution to the International Fund for Ireland, the aim of which is to promote reconciliation between the republican and unionist communities there and which was initiated by Council Regulation (EC) No 2687/94. The contribution granted is ECU 17 m per annum. The Fund must assign priority to using the contributions for projects of a cross-border or cross-community nature, and particularly for those consistent with the objectives of the Special Support Programme for Peace and Reconciliation (PEACE) and the other Structural Fund programmes. The contributions must, in addition, be used in such a way that they have an additional impact on the areas concerned, and should not be used as a substitute for other public and private expenditure. The Commission is responsible for managing the contributions. It must coordinate the measures financed by the Fund and those financed under the Community's structural policies, and, in cooperation with the board of the Fund, must determine appropriate publicity and information procedures to publicize the Community's participation in the projects financed by the Fund. It is to submit to the budgetary authority by 01.04.1999 an evaluation report on all the measures undertaken (including a list of the projects financed), which should include an assessment of the need for continuing contributions after 1999. ENTRY INTO FORCE: The Regulation enters into force on 01.01.1998 and is applicable until 31.12.1999.