Employment: activities of research, cooperation, analysis and action. Action ESSEN 1996-2001

1995/0149(CNS) - 23/02/1998 - Final act

OBJECTIVE: the establishment for the period 1998-2000 of Community activities concerning analysis and research on employment with a view to strengthening cooperation and rationalizing actions undertaken at Community level in this area and identifying and transferring best practices. COMMUNITY MEASURE: Council Decision 98/171/EC on Community activities concerning analysis, research and cooperation in the field of employment and the labour market. SUBSTANCE: Following the conclusions of the Amsterdam European Council and in particular the incorporation of a new title on employment in the new treaty, the Council establishes greater cooperation with regard to analysis, research and exchange of information and experience in the field of employment and the labour market. These activities, established for the period from 1 January 1998 to 31 December 2000 and with a financial reference amount of ECU 30 million for this period, should contribute to the development of the coordinated strategy for employment through the monitoring and support of actions carried out in the Member States. Three types of activities are envisaged as part of an integrated approach: - developing the survey, analysis, research and monitoring of the Member States' employment policies and of progress achieved in their labour markets; - promoting exchanges of information, experience and best practices through methodological and technical support; - prompt dissemination of the results of initiatives undertaken and any other relevant information. The Commission is responsible for the implementation of this initiative and ensuring that it is consistent with and complementary to other relevant Community measures. It is assisted in this task by a committee composed of representatives of the Member States. When implementing this initiative the Commission will seek in particular to promote the identification, transfer and dissemination of measures which directly or indirectly assist certain groups particularly affected by unemployment: young people, women , older persons and those affected by long-term unemployment. The initiative is open to participation by the countries of the EEA, the associated countries of Central and Eastern Europe, Cyprus and Malta and Mediterranean countries which are partners of the European Union (according to arrangements to be defined on a case by case basis). The cost of the participation shall be borne either by the countries concerned or under the budget headings covering implementation of the cooperation agreements with those countries. Under this initiative the Commission should establish links with the European social partners and the employment and labour market committee, set up by Decision 97 /16/EC. An interim report on the results of the activities is to be submitted to the Council, the European Parliament, the Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions by 31 December 1999 at the latest and a final report by 31 December 2001 at the latest. ENTRY INTO FORCE: 23.02.1998