European monitoring centre for drugs and addiction EMCDDA: assistance to applicant countries (amend. Regulation (EEC) No 302/93)

1999/0187(CNS) - 16/06/2000 - Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading

By adopting the report, under consultation procedure, drafted by Mr. Sérgio SOUSA PINTO (PES, Portugal), the European Parliament accepts the proposal for a Council regulation completing Regulation 302/93/EEC establishing a European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA). However, it was adopted subject to amendments relating to the inclusion of the CEECs in terms of allowing structural and technical assistance projects to be included among the Centre's objectives. In addition, it is stated that the regulation should be extended to cover technical assistance provided by the EMCDDA not only to those applicant countries but also to other countries which are party to agreements concluded with the EU providing for the exchange of drugs-related information. It sought to clarify the legal framework by ensuring that the regulation specifically referred to the applicant CEEC applicant countries, Turkey, Cyprus and Malta, together with other countries eligible for the PHARE programme and certain third countries with which the European Union has established cooperation instruments and with a view to involving them in the activities of the EMCDDA and establishing structural links with the REITOX network. Furthermore, there is an additional paragraph which states that the Centre and the national focal points shall cooperate in such a way that the REITOX network becomes an interactive operational structure as soon as possible. In particular, they shall inform one another systematically regarding their respective activities and shall use and optimise the information and the contributions which they provide to one another on a mutual basis. The national focal points shall be closely involved in the activities of the Centre. With regard to the Management Board, it shall be responsible, in close liaison with the Director, for the Centre's strategic guidelines and for coordinating the Centre's activities with those of the Union (in particular within the cross-sector working party on drugs) and those of the Member States, and also for the running and the development of the REITOX network. The Management Board shall submit an annual report on its activities to the EU institutions. The Management Board shall also adopt the draft budget and forward it to the Commission, which on that basis shall establish the relevant estimates in the preliminary draft general budget. Finally, every three years the Commisson shall forward to the European Parliament and to the Council a progress report on the Centre's activities.