Development cooperation, women participation: integration of gender issues

1997/0151(SYN) - 22/12/1998 - Final act

PURPOSE: establishment of a programme on the integrating of gender issues in development co-operation for the period 1999-2003. COMMUNITY MEASURE: Council Regulation 2836/98/EC on integrating of gender issues in development co-operation. CONTENT: The Community will provide financial assistance and technical expertise as a means of supporting the following objectives: - the mainstreaming of gender analysis in all areas of development co-operation, taking particular account of the legal and actual status of women and men, their needs and their contribution to society and the family; - facilitating the inclusion of actions addressing major gender disparities and on an appropriately large scale, particularly with regard to access to resources, services and participation in the decision-making processes in political, economic and social life, in the mainstream of Community development interventions; - leading progressively to a situation in 2003 where a substantially increased percentage of Community interventions satisfy the OECD/DAC criteria for gender integration or positive action; - developing and promoting endogenous public and private capacities in developing countries which can take the responsibility and initiative for mainstreaming the gender dimension in the development effort. The financial reference for the implementation of the programme for the 1999-2003 period is 25 million EUROS. The aid provided under this Regulation complements and reinforces that provided under other development co-operation instruments, including those at intergovernmental and/or national level. Clarifications regarding the activities eligible for financing are included in the Regulation: technical advice & support, activities aimed at including gender implications in analyses, policies, country & sector strategies, schemes to build up the institutional and operational capacities of developing countries on gender issues at national, regional & local level, the collection and dissemination of data disaggregated by sex, development of methodologies, guidelines, manuals, procedures, indicators and other operational instruments seeking to improve the integration of gender issues in development activities, thematic monitoring & evaluations, training and sensitization of key decision-makers, support to the formulation, follow-up & monitoring of national plans in developing countries designed to implement the Platform for Action of the Beijing Conference, and actions within the framework of co-ordination with Member States on integrating gender issues in development co-operation. Beneficiaries of activities carried out under this Regulation may include public authorities and government agencies, decentralised departments, regional bodies, universities and research centres, traditional and local communities, trade unions, non-governmental organisations, public utility associations and associations representing local people, particularly women, as well as co-operatives and agricultural and craft-based credit institutions. Priority will be given to endogenous structures that can play a role in developing loacl capacities with respect to gender. The Commission shall be responsible for appraising, deciding onand administering operations covered by this Regulation. It will be assisted by the geographically determined committee competent for development co-operation (i.e. MEDA, ALA or EDF). Specific provisions exist for decisions relating to grants of more than EURO 1 million. After each budget year, the Commission shall submit an annual report to the EP and the Council giving an account of the activities financed. An exchange of views with the geographically determined committees will take place once a year on the basis of a presentation by a Commission representaitve of the general guidelines for the operations to be carried out in the year ahead. Three years after the Regulation enters into force, the Commission shall submit to the EP and to the Council an overall assessment of the operations financed under this Regulation, which may be accompanied by suggestions concerning the future of this Regulation. ENTRY INTO FORCE: 02.01.1999. The Regulation is applicable until 31.12.2003.