EC/Cambodia agreement: cooperation agreement

1997/0060(CNS) - 04/10/1999 - Final act

PURPOSE : conclusion of the Cooperation Agreement between the European Community and Cambodia. COMMNUNITY MEASURE : Council Decision 1999/677/EC concerning the conclusion of the Cooperation Agreement between the European Community and Cambodia. CONTENT : the Agreement in based on the respect of human rights and democratic principles. The Agreement has 3 objectives : 1) to reinforce and diversify trade relations : reciprocal application of the most favoured nation clause for the exchange of goods, except concerning the advantages agreed upon in the framework of customs unions, free trade areas, measures relating to trade with neighbouring countries or specific contracted obligations in virtue of international agreements on basic products. This advantage will be complemented by the application of the system of generalised preferences in its applicable version to the least developed countries, of which Cambodia is one, for a range of products. Trade cooperation also concerns the improvement of market access to the maritime transport field, cooperation between customs authorities and the exchange of information on potential opportunities. Concerning commercial or industrial intellectual property, Cambodia undertakes to accede to the relevant international conventions. Economic cooperation will aim to encourage investment programmes from the public and private sectors, technology transfer and contacts between companies and economic actors; 2) to intensify cooperation and development : the objective will be to help Cambodia increase the economic level of its population (in particular, the poorest sections). In addition, measures will be taken in order to reconstruct the country (notably, transport infrastructures). The European Union will continue its mine-clearance programmes and, in the programmes fighting against poverty, the priority will be given to the creation of jobs, to local development , to the promotion of women, to the prevention of AIDS, to capacity building in the health service, to the development of qualifications. Concerning drugs, the agreement provides for assistance to prevent drug addiction and the exchange of information on chemical precursors used to make drugs; 3) to reinforce management methods of sustainable development and natural resources, in particular forests : to support the comprehensive body of legislation, to fight against the felling of trees. In addition, the Agreement includes other types of cooperation: agriculture, energy, regional cooperation, science and technology, drugs and money laundering, infrastructures, information, communication and culture. On the institutional level, the Agreement establishes a mixed committee made up of members of the Commission and representatives from the Member States and Cambodia who will meet every 2 years to fix the main objectives of the Agreement and attend to its good application. The Agreement includes an evolutionary clause but does not provide for political dialogue between the parties. DURATION OF THE AGREEMENT : it is planned for an initialduration of 5 years, then tacitly extendible. ENTRY INTO FORCE : 01.11.1999.