Agenda 2000: Cohesion Fund (amend. annex II regul. 1164/94/EC)

1998/0118(CNS) - 21/06/1999 - Final act

PURPOSE: amendment of certain technical aspects of the Regulation establishing the Cohesion Fund for the 2000-2006 period. COMMUNITY MEASURE: Council Regulation 1265/1999/EC amending Annex II to Regulation 1164/94/EC establishing a Cohesion Fund. CONTENT: In addition to the amendments adopted in the parallel procedure seeking to amend the Cohesion Fund (AVC980108), this Regulation makes a number of changes to the implementing provisions for the Regulation with a view to improving the use of the Cohesion Fund. The main changes concern the following aspects: - the definitions of 'project', 'project stages' and 'groups of projects' are further clarified; - ex ante evaluation of projects is strengthened in that the Regulation requires Member States to carry out a more complete study of the alternatives to, and the environmental impact of, the project; - financial management: in order to simplify the commitment system, the Regulation introduces the obligation to make commitments at the start of each financial year. Payments must also be made as follows: a single payment on account of up to 20% of the Fund assistance, and subsequent payments to refund the expenditure certified and actually paid; balance of 10-20% once the project has been completed; - financial redress: the Regulation introduces various measures to penalise failure to complete projects, including cancellation of the assistance granted; - the euro is to be used for all Cohesion Fund transactions. ENTRY INTO FORCE: 01.01.2000.