General programme "Security and Safeguarding Liberties": specific Programme "Prevention, preparedness and consequence management of terrorism", 2007-2013

2005/0034(CNS) - 14/12/2006 - Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading

The European Parliament adopted a resolution drafted by Maria **La Russa** (UEN, Italy) and made some amendments to the proposal:

- the Title of the programme was changed to “Prevention of the Risks relating to Security, in particular to Terrorism, and Management of their Consequences”;

- Parliament amended certain definitions, including "prevention", "consequence management", and "critical infrastructure";

- MEPs felt that, while focusing on terrorism, this programme is intended to cover all types of security-related risks. Accordingly, an amendment was made stating that the programme shall contribute to protect citizens, their liberties and society against terrorist attacks and **other security risks, irrespective of their cause or origin**. The general objectives of the programme contribute to the development of a comprehensive concept of security based, in particular, on other Union and Community policies such as police and judicial cooperation in criminal matters, protection of the environment, **energy supply, security of communication and information networks, public health, transport, research and technological development, continuity of public action** and economic and social cohesion;

- a new clause states that Member States shall remain responsible for the adoption, implementation and financing of operational security measures identified by this programme as being necessary for the improvement of general security in the European Union;

- access to funding shall be facilitated by the application of the principle of proportionality as regards the documents to be supplied and by the creation of a database for the submission of applications;

- all institutions, associations or networks in receipt of a grant under the programme have the obligation to acknowledge the support granted by the European Union. To this end the Commission shall lay down detailed visibility guidelines;

- priority must be given to prevention of terrorist attacks, in the absence of major disasters;

- the Commission shall, as far as possible, simplify procedures and ensure that calls for proposals provided for in the programme do not entail a bureaucratic burden for promoters of the projects proposed. Calls for proposals may be organised in two stages, the first of which would only require information that was strictly necessary for a proper assessment of the project to be sent;

- the programme may share resources with Commission programmes allowing specific studies relating to critical infrastructure security to be carried out, such as those already in progress in the fields of transport and energy;

- the Commission shall ensure that the actions covered by the Decision are complementary to those covered by the programmes mentioned and that they do not overlap;

- should the programme's resources prove insufficient for the implementation of measures already in progress, the Community shall guarantee access to other compatible funds;

- the Commission shall ensure that the actions covered by the Decision are subject to prior evaluation, monitoring and ex-post evaluation;

- the Commission shall inform the European Parliament and the Council annually, at the same time as it submits the Preliminary Draft Budget, on the implementation of the programme, in particular the use of the resources available;

- the Commission must present a succinct yearly report, including, in particular, information making it possible to measure the programme's success in quantitative terms;

- each year, the Commission, together with the Member States, shall publish a list of the projects financed under the programme with a short description of each project;

- organisations in receipt of an operating grant by virtue of the programme may take part in calls for proposals for other programmes, without however being entitled to preferential treatment vis-à-vis other organisations financed from budgets other than that of the EU;

- Parliament added an Annex which contains the indicative list of critical infrastructure sectors. Split into eleven main headings. These are: energy, information, communication technologies, ICT, water, food, health, financial, public legal order and safety, civil administration, transport, chemical and nuclear industry, and space and research.