Basic information

1994/0189(COD) COD - Ordinary legislative procedure (ex-codecision procedure) Decision	Procedure completed
Community action programme 1997-1998 in the fields of books and reading, ARIANE Amended by 1998/0282(COD) **Subject** 4.45.02 Cultural programmes and actions, assistance 4.45.08 Cultural and artistic activities, books and reading, arts	

Key players

European Parliament

Former committee for opinion	Former rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
BUDG Budgets	DÜHRKOP DÜHRKOP Bárbara (PSE)	06/12/1994
RELA External Economic Relations	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	

Council of the European Union

Council configuration	Meetings	Date
Transport, Telecommunications and Energy	1979	1996-12-13
Budget	2026	1997-07-24
Culture	1841	1995-04-03
Culture	1981	1996-12-16
Culture	1936	1996-06-11
Culture	1860	1995-06-21
Telecommunications	1941	1996-06-27

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
25/10/1994	Legislative proposal published	COM(1994)0356	Summary
30/11/1994	Committee referral announced in Parliament, 1st reading		
22/03/1995	Vote in committee, 1st reading		Summary
22/03/1995	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading	A4-0073/1995	
03/04/1995	Debate in Council		Summary

06/04/1995	Debate in Parliament		Summary
21/06/1995	Debate in Council		Summary
28/07/1995	Modified legislative proposal published	COM(1995)0374	Summary
27/06/1996	Council position published	06707/2/1996	Summary
18/07/1996	Committee referral announced in Parliament, 2nd reading		
08/10/1996	Vote in committee, 2nd reading		Summary
08/10/1996	Committee recommendation tabled for plenary, 2nd reading	A4-0308/1996	
21/10/1996	Debate in Parliament		Summary
13/12/1996	Parliament's amendments rejected by Council		
16/12/1996	Debate in Council		Summary
28/05/1997	Formal meeting of Conciliation Committee		
28/05/1997	Final decision by Conciliation Committee		
27/06/1997	Joint text approved by Conciliation Committee co-chairs	3616/1997	
02/07/1997	Report tabled for plenary, 3rd reading	A4-0237/1997	
16/07/1997	Debate in Parliament		Summary
24/07/1997	Decision by Council, 3rd reading		
06/10/1997	Final act signed		
06/10/1997	End of procedure in Parliament		
24/10/1997	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	1994/0189(COD)
Procedure type	COD - Ordinary legislative procedure (ex-codecision procedure)
Procedure subtype	Legislation
Legislative instrument	Decision
Amendments and repeals	Amended by 1998/0282(COD)
Legal basis	EC Treaty (before Amsterdam) E 128
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	CODE/4/08526

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading		A4-0073/1995 OJ C 109 01.05.1995, p. 0005	22/03/1995	
		T4-0177/1995		

Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading		OJ C 109 01.05.1995, p. 0271-0289	07/04/1995	Summary
Committee recommendation tabled for plenary, 2nd reading		A4-0308/1996 OJ C 347 18.11.1996, p. 0006	08/10/1996	
Text adopted by Parliament, 2nd reading		T4-0506/1996 OJ C 347 18.11.1996, p. 0019-0025	22/10/1996	Summary
Report tabled for plenary by Parliament delegation to Conciliation Committee, 3rd reading		A4-0237/1997 OJ C 286 22.09.1997, p. 0009	02/07/1997	
Text adopted by Parliament, 3rd reading		T4-0383/1997 OJ C 286 22.09.1997, p. 0177-0207	17/07/1997	Summary

Council of the EU

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Council position	06707/2/1996 OJ C 264 11.09.1996, p. 0034	27/06/1996	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Legislative proposal	COM(1994)0356	25/10/1994	Summary
Modified legislative proposal	COM(1995)0374 OJ C 279 25.10.1995, p. 0007	28/07/1995	Summary
Commission communication on Council's position	SEC(1996)1320	15/07/1996	
Commission opinion on Parliament's position at 2nd reading	COM(1996)0637	09/12/1996	Summary
Follow-up document	COM(2004)0033	23/01/2004	Summary

Other institutions and bodies

Institution/body	Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
CofR	Committee of the Regions: opinion	CDR0146/1995 OJ C 100 02.04.1996, p. 0035	21/04/1995	Summary
CSL/EP	Joint text approved by Conciliation Committee co-chairs	3616/1997	27/06/1997	

Additional information

Source	Document	Date
European Commission	EUR-Lex	

Final act

Decision 1997/2085
OJ L 291 24.10.1997, p. 0026 Summary

Community action programme 1997-1998 in the fields of books and reading, ARIANE

1994/0189(COD) - 16/12/1996

The Council noted that the main problem still to be resolved with Parliament concerned the financial allocation for this initiative. The Conciliation Committee was to be convened under the Dutch Presidency.

Community action programme 1997-1998 in the fields of books and reading, ARIANE

1994/0189(COD) - 22/10/1996 - Text adopted by Parliament, 2nd reading

In adopting the recommendation for second reading by Mrs Nana MOUSKOURI (PPE, G) concerning the establishment of the Ariane programme, Parliament amended the common position on various points. It called for the programme's budget to be increased to ECU 10.5 million (as against the Council's proposal of ECU 7 million). One year after the programme has been launched, the Commission should draw up an assessment report on the results achieved, with particular reference to the impact on the dissemination of literature in the less-widely used languages. In addition, works written in these languages should nevertheless be eligible for a translation grant without having been previously translated into other Community languages. Finally, the EP called for the Commission to be assisted by an Advisory Committee for the incentive measures in the cultural field.

Community action programme 1997-1998 in the fields of books and reading, ARIANE

1994/0189(COD) - 06/10/1997 - Final act

OBJECTIVE : the establishment of a Community action programme in the field of books, reading and aid for translation. COMMUNITY MEASURE: European Parliament and Council Decision 2085/97/EC establishing a support programme, comprising aid for translation, in the field of books and reading (ARIANE). CONTENT : the ARIANE programme is established for a period of 2 years from 1 January 1997 to 31 December 1998 and is allocated a budget of ECU 7 million for the period under consideration. It seeks to support and complement the actions of the Member States in the area in question while respecting the principle of subsidiarity and the cultural diversity of the Member States. It covers the following areas of intervention: 1) aid for the translation of novels, short stories, essays, literary narratives, plays and poetry, etc. which are representative both of the Member State where the works originate and of the literary trends of the 20th Century. Priority is given to applications from small publishing houses and to works written in less-widely used languages. Aid is also granted to well-known or recognised theatrical works, with priority given to recent 20th-century literary works and to the translation of reference works (history of art, human sciences, etc.); 2) aid for cooperative measures which seek to promote and to facilitate public access to books and reading (improved access to literature, improved dissemination of books and exchanges between persons engaged in the book trade in areas of common interest); 3) aid for the training of persons in the dissemination of European literature (essentially exchange grants); 4) specific complementary measures which seek to improve cultural cooperation in the field of books and reading (study, research, etc.); 5) Aristéion Prize: annual Community contribution to the European Literature Prize and the European Translation Prize; 6) participation by third countries in certain ARIANE actions relating mainly to the dissemination in these countries of literature from Member States. The programme is implemented by the Commission with the aid of a committee of mixed competence according to the subject matter (advisory and management). The Commission will endeavour to establish complementarity with other compatible Community measures (particularly with SOCRATES, LEONARDO, RAPHAEL and KALEIDOSCOPE). ARIANE is open to the associated countries of eastern Europe and to Cyprus and Malta and other non-member countries with which the Community has signed association or cooperation agreements which include cultural clauses. Cooperation is also sought with UNESCO and with the Council of Europe. One year after implementation, the Commission will submit to the European Parliament and to the Council an assessment report on ARIANE containing appropriate proposals for measures to be taken on the basis of the experience which has been acquired. An annex describes in detail the eligible actions and the procedures to be followed for access to Community financing. ENTRY INTO FORCE: 24/10 /1997.

Community action programme 1997-1998 in the fields of books and reading, ARIANE

1994/0189(COD) - 09/12/1996 - Commission opinion on Parliament's position at 2nd reading

In its opinion following Parliament's second reading on the ARIANE programme, the Commission stated that it was willing to incorporate in full or in part 6 of the 8 amendments approved by the European Parliament at second reading. The amendments accepted seek to: - insert a reference in the assessment report to the impact of the programme on the dissemination of literature in the less-widely used languages; - make works in less-widely used languages eligible without having been previously translated into one of the Community languages; - make projects which seek to create data banks and data bases eligible; - give priority to small, independent publishers; - delete, with regard to the distribution of resources, the reference to the double procedure (advisory and management committee). It accepted in part the change to the committee provided for by the Council and therefore recommended that the management committee be used for granting financial assistance to projects of more than ECU 10,000 and that a different committee procedure be used when adopting assessment reports. However, it rejected amendments seeking to: - change the title of the decision (referring explicitly to translation); - increase the budget for ARIANE (ECU 10.5 million instead of ECU 7 million).

Community action programme 1997-1998 in the fields of books and reading, ARIANE

1994/0189(COD) - 03/04/1995

The Council examined the proposal for a decision establishing a Community support programme for the dissemination of literary, dramatic and reference works through translation and further training of literary translators (Ariane). At this stage one delegation maintained its reservation on the value of the programme. In view of this problem and of questions on the duration and funding of Ariane similar to those encountered in discussion of the Kaleidoscope programme, the Council asked the Committee on Cultural Affairs and the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue study of the proposal. These proceedings would take place in the light of the Council’s discussions and after consideration of the European Parliament’s opinion, expected shortly, so that the Council could adopt a common position at its next meeting.

Community action programme 1997-1998 in the fields of books and reading, ARIANE

1994/0189(COD) - 17/07/1997 - Text adopted by Parliament, 3rd reading

By adopting the report by Mrs Nana MOUSKOURI (PPE, G), the European Parliament approved the joint text and accepted the budget of ECU 7 million for the ARIANE programme (rather than the ECU 10.5 m called for at second reading).

Community action programme 1997-1998 in the fields of books and reading, ARIANE

1994/0189(COD) - 21/04/1995 - Committee of the Regions: opinion

In its Opinion the Committee recalled that EU action in the field of culture should not be to the detriment of cultural specificities, but should instead foster contact between cultures and the full development of minority languages. It suggested that historical works be added to the types of work covered by the programme. It also proposed: - that the Aristeion prize should be divided into a number of categories according to the type of work translated (literary, dramatic, historical, reference or from a lesser-used language); - that the programme should help to improve the channels of dissemination (including computerisation and telematics); - that training requirements under the Ariane programme be made eligible for EU human resources programmes; - that the production of bilingual books should be encouraged; - that Ariane should be open to Eastern countries; - that regional and local institutions be involved in monitoring the programme.

Community action programme 1997-1998 in the fields of books and reading, ARIANE

1994/0189(COD) - 21/06/1995

The Council noted that it was unable to achieve the unanimity required to take a decision. Bearing in mind the interest shown by fourteen delegations, the Commission would study the possibility of broadening the proposed programme to include book-related aspects other than translation, and make proposals accordingly.

Community action programme 1997-1998 in the fields of books and reading, ARIANE

1994/0189(COD) - 28/07/1995 - Modified legislative proposal

In its amended proposal, the Commission took over in full or in part 32 of the European Parliament's amendments. However, 10 amendments were rejected concerning comitology (Amendments Nos 45 and 27), the scope of the programme (Amendments Nos 9, 14 and 40 on the recognition of the status of translators and encouraging electronic editions) or because they exceeded Ariane's modest budget (Amendments Nos 38 and 48 on the promotion of translated literary works and support for reading for blind persons). Amendment No 21 was not taken over as it was considered to be redundant (restatement of the terms of the Interinstitutional Agreement of 6 March 1995). Amendments Nos 34 and 35 could not be accepted as they affected the general direction of the programme, which, in supporting translation, gave precedence to the cultural dimension (such as the quality of works) over all others (for example, the amendment aimed at giving priority to editors who had not previously received Community grants for translation). Most of the amendments accepted by the Commission were taken over as they were adopted by the EP or were qualified slightly: - change in the title ("through translation"); - promotion of a European identity and Europe's influence; - complementarity with audiovisual techniques (information society): Ariane should be thought of as a first step towards a Community policy to promote books; - increasing cooperation with third countries and synergy with other international organisations; - as regards transparency: report on the synergies developed by the Member States and the promotion of literature in the less widely used languages; - as regards the measures themselves: inclusion of the EP amendments concerning: . the languages eligible for the programme (official or indigenous languages of the Community), . measures relating to works in the more widely used languages by authors from smaller countries, . young authors and new writers, . the creation of a database with a view to supporting co-publication and the possible creation of semantics databases for professional translators; . as regards comitology, the Commission merely indicated in the recitals that the implementing measures were to be applied in accordance with the interinstitutional "modus vivendi" of 20 December 1994 and the relevant procedures.

Community action programme 1997-1998 in the fields of books and reading, ARIANE

1994/0189(COD) - 27/06/1996 - Council position

The Council common position, which incorporates a great many European Parliament amendments, provides for a 2-year programme (1997-1998) with a budget of ECU 7 million. ARIANE is designed to improve knowledge and dissemination of the literature and history of the European nations, and the access of European people thereto. The following types of measure are envisaged: - aid for translation (high-quality 20th-century literary works, theatrical works, reference works and studies). Priority will be given to translations of works written in the less widespread EU languages and to translations into these languages. Aid will also go to the translation of works written in widely disseminated languages, but published in small countries. The resources to be used for this measure are to represent 50% of the programme's total budget; - support for cooperation projects carried out in partnership aimed at promoting and improving access to books and reading; - further training for those engaged in producing books, particularly literary translators; - accompanying measures to supplement the other actions (meetings, studies, research); - continuation of the Aristéion Prize (European Literature Prize and European Translation Prize); - participation by third countries (the programme will be open to the CEECs, Malta and Cyprus and, under certain conditions, to cooperation with other third countries). - cooperation with the Council of Europe and other international organizations involved in the field of culture, such as UNESCO. The Commission must endeavour to achieve complementarity between the ARIANE programme and the other cultural (KALEIDOSCOPE and RAPHAEL) and educational (SOCRATES, LEONARDO) programmes. In line with the committees set up for those programmes, the Council opted for a committee acting as a management committee on some matters and an advisory committee on others. The common position states that the implementing measures are to be carried out in accordance with the interinstitutional 'modus vivendi' of 20 December 1994.

Community action programme 1997-1998 in the fields of books and reading, ARIANE

1994/0189(COD) - 11/06/1996

The Council succeeded in obtaining the unanimous agreement of the delegations on the text of the common position. However, the UK tabled a general reservation on the problem of BSE. The common position would therefore be adopted as an ‘A’ item at a subsequent sitting of the Council, as soon as circumstances permitted, and would then be referred to Parliament for a second reading under the codecision procedure.

Community action programme 1997-1998 in the fields of books and reading, ARIANE

1994/0189(COD) - 25/10/1994 - Legislative proposal

The purpose of this proposal for a decision by the European Parliament and the Council is to establish a five-year programme (1996-2000) to support books and reading entitled "ARIANE". This programme aims to: - encourage wider distribution of contemporary literary works which are representative of the culture of the Member States, giving priority to translations of works written in the less widely used languages of the Community. The symbolic measure in this programme is the "Aristéion Prize" (a European literature and translation prize) for developing and disseminating the richness and diversity of European literary creation through translation; - promote the dissemination of contemporary dramatic works through translation, in order to present the European public with a diversified repertoire which is representative of the cultures of the Member States; - promote the dissemination of reference works in order to improve knowledge of the culture and history of the people of Europe; - support and supplement efforts taken at national and regional level with a series of actions at Community level, mainly in the field of cooperation in the form of networks and partnerships, training and further training and research and studies in order to support and properly supplement Community dissemination and development actions upstream

and downstream; - promote cooperation between the Community and the Member States and third countries and the relevant international organizations (Council of Europe, associated countries of eastern Europe, Latin America and the Community of Independent States of the former USSR). The Commission proposes a budget of ECU 34 million over 5 years for this programme.

Community action programme 1997-1998 in the fields of books and reading, ARIANE

1994/0189(COD) - 23/01/2004

The Ariane Programme was developed and devised in response to Article 128 of the Treaty of Maastricht. This Article, (later changed to Article 151 following the adoption of the Amsterdam Treaty) gave culture its own rightful place within the EU context. Cultural co-operation became an officially recognised objective of the European Union. The aim of the Ariane programme, which was agreed in 1997 for an initial two year period (after a trial period in 1996), was to encourage co-operation between the Member States in the field of books and reading and to increase the knowledge and dissemination of literary works and the history of the European people. The overall programme was awarded EUR 11.3 million. Some 767 projects were financed during this period (880 including the trial period). There were four specific objectives enshrined in the Decision establishing the Ariane programme. They were: - encouraging the dissemination of literary, dramatic or reference works; - encouraging exchanges through partnership initiatives; - encouraging high-quality translations; - supporting innovative studies and research. These objectives were then divided into six action lines intended to implement the objectives outlined above. They included actions such as: - translation grants (up to 100% of the translator's fee); - support for projects, carried out in partnership, which promoted access to books and reading; - improving knowledge of European literature; - supporting measures related to studies and publicity for the programme; - Aristeion Prizes (European literature prize and European translation prize); - the participation of third countries. The Commission, in accordance with mandatory procedures, announced the calls for proposals in the Official Journals as well as announcing them through press releases. The selection, monitoring and dissemination procedures were applied uniformly to all of the projects receiving Ariane funding. At the end of the Ariane programme's life the European Commission asked external evaluators to examine and report on how effective the programme was in achieving its stated objectives. In preparing this task the evaluators took account of the following points: The relevance of the programme; its coherence, efficiency and its effectiveness. In terms of its relevance the authors deemed it to be entirely relevant, even though some operators of the programme regretted that it showed no real European ambition in the cultural field. In terms of efficiency and effectiveness of the programme the evaluators voiced very little criticism, finding that the results obtained were proportional to the resources committed, i.e they were effective but not commensurate with the more ambitious expectations formulated in the Decisions establishing the programme. Concerning promotional activities the evaluators expressed some concern that the Commission was providing far too little information to cultural operators. The Commission, however, begs to disagree pointing out that not only are all the programmes published in the Official Journals it has also set up the "Culture 2000" Internet site as well as cultural contact points.Since 2002 anyone requesting it can receive a free monthly newsletter. Finally, a cultural portal was created in March 2002 on the Internet to present all EU cultural related activities. On the question of monitoring the Commission's response to the evaluator's criticism that more should be done by the Commission to visit projects on the ground, is rejected. The Commission points out that, whilst it continues to monitor and assess projects, the lack of human resources makes it impossible to visit every project. Each Commission project manager, for example, is responsible for between forty and ninety projects. The evaluators point out that combining the old programmes into the Culture 2000 framework programme has helped to make the Community's contribution more effective and more visible. Combining the previously existing cultural programmes into one specific unit has helped make the exercise not only cheaper but also more effective. To conclude the cultural programmes, including the Ariane programme, were a useful springboard for the creation of the Culture 2000 programme. In spite of some shortcomings Ariane worked well. Along with the Raphael and Kaleidoscope programme Ariane represented a first, essential step towards the attainment of the objective set out in Article 151 of the Treaty.

Community action programme 1997-1998 in the fields of books and reading, ARIANE

1994/0189(COD) - 07/04/1995 - Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading

The European Parliament approved this proposal for a decision with the following amendments: - the title was amended in order to highlight the fact that the Ariane programme aimed to support books and reading through translation; - emphasis was placed on the importance of this programme for the promotion of a European identity and European citizenship and for the influence of the European Union throughout the world; - the EP also stressed the importance of books as an instrument of knowledge and the complementary relationship between books and current audiovisual technology (information society). Similarly, it pointed out that although literary translation could contribute to the promotion of books, it was not sufficient to encourage reading in general (reference to its proposal for a programme in this field: Gutenberg programme). As a result, Ariane should only be viewed as a first step towards a Community policy to promote books; - the EP drew attention to the fact that it was necessary to adopt a professional status for translators; - it extended cooperation to include third countries: Ariane should be accessible not only to the CEECs but to the countries of the EEA and the countries deemed to fulfil the conditions for accession to the Union (Cyprus and Malta); - synergy should be achieved with other international organisations, including the Council of Europe and UNESCO; it was important to ensure complementarity with other similar actions at Community or Member State level; - with regard to the budget, the EP asked to receive a financial statement comprising the planned schedule of annual requirements for the programme in accordance with the decisions of the budgetary authority and in line with the state of execution of the authorised appropriations; - as regards support for the actions more specifically, the EP stipulated that official Community languages and languages which were indigenous to the Member States were eligible for the programme. Additional actions were included for certain less widely-used languages and for young authors or writers publishing works for the first time. Applications from small publishing houses should be given special consideration and priority should be given to publishers who had not previously received Community grants; cooperation between publishers at European level should be encouraged (creation of a database to support co-publication), and awareness of the programme itself should be increased. The EP also provided for support for translation of works for blind persons. Finally, particular attention should be paid to professionals in the field of publishing; - the EP proposed the creation of a semantics database to help translators with their work (the Translation Centre in Luxembourg could take responsibility

for this); - finally, with regard to comitology, the EP pointed out that the choice of experts and the measures taken within the committee established by the programme should comply with the interinstitutional "modus vivendi" of 20 January 1995 and the associated procedures.