Basic information

1995/0110(SYN) SYN - Cooperation procedure (historic)	Procedure completed
EC/South Africa relations: financial, technical and economic cooperation **Subject** 6.30.02 Financial and technical cooperation and assistance **Geographical area** South Africa	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
DEVE Development and Cooperation	GÜNTHER Maren (PPE)	31/05/1995

Former committee responsible	Former rapporteur	Appointed
DEVE Development and Cooperation	GÜNTHER Maren (PPE)	31/05/1995

Former committee for opinion	Former rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
AFET Foreign Affairs, Security and Defense Policy	AELVOET Magda G.H. (V)	22/06/1995
BUDG Budgets	TOMLINSON The Lord John E. (PSE)	01/06/1995
RELA External Economic Relations	DE CLERCQ Willy C.E.H. (ELDR)	20/07/1995
CONT Budgetary Control	WYNN Terence (PSE)	21/06/1995

Council of the European Union

Council configuration	Meetings	Date
Agriculture and Fisheries	1908	1996-03-19
Development	1897	1995-12-20
Development	1967	1996-11-22

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
10/05/1995	Legislative proposal published	COM(1995)0174	Summary
07/09/1995	Vote in committee		Summary
07/09/1995	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading	A4-0208/1995	
18/09/1995	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
09/10/1995	Debate in Parliament		Summary
19/03/1996	Council position published	12784/1/1995	Summary
18/04/1996	Committee referral announced in Parliament, 2nd reading		
26/06/1996	Vote in committee, 2nd reading		Summary
26/06/1996	Committee recommendation tabled for plenary, 2nd reading	A4-0214/1996	
18/07/1996	Debate in Parliament		Summary
04/10/1996	Modified legislative proposal published	COM(1996)0459	Summary
22/11/1996	Act adopted by Council after consultation of Parliament		Summary
22/11/1996	End of procedure in Parliament		
28/11/1996	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	1995/0110(SYN)
Procedure type	SYN - Cooperation procedure (historic)
Procedure subtype	Legislation
Legal basis	EC Treaty (before Amsterdam) E 130W
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	DEVE/4/07739

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading		A4-0208/1995 OJ C 287 30.10.1995, p. 0004	07/09/1995	
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading		T4-0443/1995 OJ C 287 30.10.1995, p. 0023-0029	10/10/1995	Summary
Committee recommendation tabled for plenary, 2nd reading		A4-0214/1996 OJ C 211 22.07.1996, p. 0003	26/06/1996	

Text adopted by Parliament, 2nd reading		T4-0404/1996 OJ C 261 09.09.1996, p. 0124-0144	18/07/1996	Summary

Council of the EU

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Council position	12784/1/1995 OJ C 134 06.05.1996, p. 0012	19/03/1996	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Legislative proposal	COM(1995)0174 OJ C 235 09.09.1995, p. 0005	10/05/1995	Summary
Commission communication on Council's position	SEC(1996)0627	15/04/1996	Summary
Modified legislative proposal	COM(1996)0459	04/10/1996	Summary
Follow-up document	COM(2000)0008	20/01/2000	Summary
Follow-up document	COM(2001)0078	12/02/2001	Summary

Additional information

Source	Document	Date
European Commission	EUR-Lex	

Final act

Regulation 1996/2259
OJ L 306 28.11.1996, p. 0005 Summary

EC/South Africa relations: financial, technical and economic cooperation

1995/0110(SYN) - 12/02/2001 - Follow-up document

This document presents the 1999 annual report for the European Programme for Reconstruction and Development in South Africa. Council Regulation 2259/96/EC established a legal base for development cooperation with South Africa, the programme being entitled the European Programme for Reconstruction and Development in South Africa (EPRD). Article 9 of the Regulation states that the Commission shall submit an annual report on implementation of this Regulation to the European Parliament and the Council. This is the third such report, covering financial year 1999, the final year of validity of the legal base, the Regulation expiring on 31 December 1999. The EPRD budget allocation for 1999 was EUR 127.5 million for commitments and EUR 80 million for payments. In its conclusions, the report indicates that cooperation activities had gone through a period of substantial re-direction and restructuring following the agreement of the Strategy Paper and Multi-Annual Indicative Programme in 1997. Both the European Commission and the SA Government engaged in an ongoing exercise to streamline further (procedural aspects, integration with the Lomé

Convention) and to consolidate the achievements to date. 1999 was an exceptionally rich year in terms of the European Commission's cooperation programme with South Africa and many lessons were drawn from this prgramme since 1997 with a view to defining a new coopertion strategy for the next three years, paying particular attention to the strengths and weaknesses of past approaches and the result of this will form the basis of the next cooperation framework. Beyond the implementation of the EPRD, it can be seen that during 1999 much time and effort was given over to defining the framework of future cooperation wih South Africa, with a draft Regulation for the period 2000-2006 under discussion, a Strategy document elaborated and approved and a draft MIP 2000-2006 prepared, and a first blue-print for a decentralised form of management of the global development cooperation programme on the table. Lastly, the report also notes that it is necessary to increase the payment credits for the current year (2000) and for 2001 to be able to follow the progress achieved in recent years in the implementation of the EPRD.

EC/South Africa relations: financial, technical and economic cooperation

1995/0110(SYN) - 19/03/1996 - Council position

In its common position the Council took up some of Parliament's amendments, including those seeking to: - make provision for environmental protection projects; - enable community-based organizations to obtain funding; - extend eligibility for participation in invitations to tender to the countries of southern Africa (in this respect, the Council goes further than the EP, stipulating that markets will be open to all the ACP countries, not merely those in the region concerned); - involve the South African Government in multi-annual programming activities. The Council rejected the other amendments, which had already been rejected by the Commission. The Council did, however, make the following changes to the Commission text: - in Article 1, it drew attention to the issue of human rights; - it made provision for a new programming procedure similar to that used under the second financial protocol to Lomé IV concerning cooperation with the ACP countries; - it included provisions on transparency, stipulating a degree of information for the Member States on preparations for, funding and assessment of projects similar to that applicable under the EDF; - it inserted an expiry date (31 December 1999) in the Regulation, together with a financial package of ECU 500 million; - lastly, with regard to comitology, the Council made provision for a type IIIa committee (instead of the IIa committee proposed by the Commission), i.e. a regulatory committee rather than a management committee.

EC/South Africa relations: financial, technical and economic cooperation

1995/0110(SYN) - 15/04/1996 - Commission communication on Council's position

The Commission pointed out in its opinion on the Council's common position on this regulation that it was unable to accept the Council's text for the following reasons: - it did not accept the expiry date for the regulation introduced by the Council because it felt that it could send out the wrong political message to South Africa. At the same time, it pointed out that the Council alone was responsible for indicating the financial reference amount and that this did not affect the powers of the budgetary authority in any way; - as far as comitology was concerned (main reason for rejecting the common position), it rejected the regulatory committee introduced by the Council in lieu of the proposed management committee because the procedures involved were complex and could not but reduce the efficiency of cooperation activities implemented in South Africa.

EC/South Africa relations: financial, technical and economic cooperation

1995/0110(SYN) - 22/11/1996 - Final act

OBJECTIVE: the regulation seeks to implement financial and technical cooperation with South Africa to support the policies and reforms carried out by that country. COMMUNITY MEASURE: Council Regulation 2259/96/EC on development cooperation with South Africa. SUBSTANCE: the aim of this programme entitled the 'European Programme for Reconstruction and Development in South Africa' is to contribute to that country's economic and social development and to consolidate the foundations laid for a democratic society and a State governed by the rule of law in which human rights and fundamental freedoms are respected. It supports in particular the poorest sections of the population in South Africa. - financial reference amount: ECU 500 million from 1 January 1996 to 31 December 1999; - operations to be undertaken: operations financed under this programme in the form of non-repayable aid concern: support for democratization and the protection of human rights, education and training, health, rural development and urban development (social housing), support of and cooperation with the private sector (in particular SMEs), strengthening of institutions and the organization of local communities, protection of the environment. The Community will take account of the South African Programme for Reconstruction and Development. Measures have been taken to ensure that the Community character of the actions is apparent and to ensure the coherence and complementarity of the steps taken with other activities of the Community and/or the Member States; - programming of operations: multiannual indicative programming is to be undertaken in close cooperation with the South African government. This programming will be based on a strategy document put forward by the Commission and examined by the South Africa Committee; Community financing: financing in local or foreign currency may cover investment (except for the purchase of buildings), and recurrent expenditure (administrative, maintenance and operating costs) for which the beneficiaries should ultimately take responsibility. A financial contribution from the partners will in principle be required for each cooperation operation and from other providers of funds (particularly the Member States). - cooperation partners: those eligible for financial assistance shall be national, provincial and local authorities and public bodies, non-governmental organizations and Community-based organizations, regional and international organizations, institutions and public or private operators. - decision-making procedure: the Commission is to be responsible for appraising, taking decisions on and managing projects. It will be assisted by a regulatory committee (type IIIa) consisting of representatives of the Member States. The Commission is also required to inform the committee succinctly in advance of any decision relating to projects of a value of under ECU 2 million. For decisions relating to larger amounts the decisions will be adopted with the agreement of the committee. - information: an annual report is to be forwarded to the European Parliament and the Council setting out the projects financed during the financial year and an appraisal (projects funded, etc.). appraisal: The Commission is to undertake regular appraisals in order to establish whether the objectives of the regulation have been reached. These appraisals will be made available to the Member States which request them. ENTRY INTO FORCE: the regulation will enter into force on 1 December 1996 and will expire on 31 December 1999.

EC/South Africa relations: financial, technical and economic cooperation

1995/0110(SYN) - 10/10/1995 - Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading

Adopting the report by Mrs Maren G·NTHER (PPE, D) on the proposal for a regulation on development cooperation with South Africa, the European Parliament stressed the need to improve the financial management of programmes and therefore proposed that the head of the Commission delegation in South Africa be authorized, under a procedure yet to be decided, to grant appropriations for projects and actions operations funded under the regulation up to a maximum ceiling of 500,000 ecus. Other amendments by Parliament called for: - locally-based organizations as well as non-governmental organizations to be able to obtain funding; - eligible projects to include the environment; - participation in invitations to tender (including supplies) to be opened to developing countries, particularly in southern Africa; - the implementation of projects to be decided on a multiannual basis following consultation with the National Development Agency, appropriate government departments and partners on the ground. As far as comitology is concerned, Parliament called for its Committee on Development and Cooperation to be allowed to attend meetings of the South Africa committee with observer status.

EC/South Africa relations: financial, technical and economic cooperation

1995/0110(SYN) - 10/05/1995 - Legislative proposal

This proposal for a regulation seeks to implement financial and technical cooperation with South Africa within the framework of a European Programme for Reconstruction and Development in South Africa. The aim of this cooperation is to contribute to South Africa's economic and social development and to consolidate the new foundations laid for a democratic society. It supports in particular the poorest sections of the population in South Africa. The operations to be financed under this programme, in the form of non-repayable aid, focus mainly on the following areas: education, training, health, urban and rural development, the private sector (especially SMEs), strengthening of institutions and organization of local communities, democratization and protection of human rights. They include studies, technical assistance, training, the provision of services and works and audit and monitoring missions. Recipients of financial assistance will be national, regional and local authorities and public bodies, NGOs and local communities, regional and international organizations and private-sector institutes and operators. Local partners and Member States will, where possible, be required to make a financial contribution. The Commission will be in charge of appraising, taking decisions on and managing projects, assisted by a committee of representatives from the Member States. A specific procedure is planned for projects in excess of ECU 2 million or where changes to projects involve a 20% increase in expenditure.

EC/South Africa relations: financial, technical and economic cooperation

1995/0110(SYN) - 18/07/1996 - Text adopted by Parliament, 2nd reading

In adopting the recommendation for second reading by Mrs Maren GÜNTHER (PPE, D), Parliament approved the proposal for a Regulation subject to the following amendments: - with regard to programming, establishment of a multiannual programme following consultation with the National Development Agency, appropriate government departments, and operational partners (and not on the basis of a strategic document proposed by the Commission and examined by the 'South Africa Committee', on which the latter delivers an opinion in consensus with the Commission), - deletion of the date of expiry of the Regulation (31 December 1999) which was liable, according to the EP, to impose a constraint on South Africa and could send a misleading political signal to that country, - deletion of the financial amount of ECU 500 million for the implementation of this Regulation for the period 1996-1999, which was liable to diminish the power of Parliament as an arm of the budgetary authority, - authorization for the Commission's Head of Delegation in South Africa to grant appropriations for projects and operations financed under this Regulation, up to a maximum amount of ECU 500 000, - in relation to commitology, establishment of a management committee (type IIa) and not, as the Council would prefer, a regulatory committee (type IIIa) and provision for the EP's Committee on Development and Cooperation to attend the meetings of the committee as an observer.

EC/South Africa relations: financial, technical and economic cooperation

1995/0110(SYN) - 20/01/2000 - Follow-up document

PURPOSE : to present the 1998 annual report on the implementation of the European Programme for Research and Development (EPRD) in South Africa. CONTENT : Council Regulation 2259/96/EC established the legal base for development cooperation with South Africa. Article 9 of the Regulation states that the Commission shall submit an annual report on implementation of this Regulation to the European Parliament and the Council. This is the second report established in application of Article 9, covering the financial year 1998. In 1998, 16 programmes were approved by the South African Committee and decided by the Commission. Three extensions to existing programmes were also agreed. This document displays a detailed list of the proportion of resources allocated to the different focal sectors, and the breakdown according to the implementing partner (government or decentralized). The principle of seeking to better focus the use of EPRD resources on a reduced number of programmes with significant impact, was maintained, though applied pragmatically so as not to exclude small but critical projects. The slow rate of disbursement identified as a problem since the beginning of the EPRD is now beginning to be remedied. Nevertheless, during the year delays were still due to some or all of the following: - lack of capacity for implementation; - lack of knowledge and experience (at Department or NGO level) with EU procedures; - conflicting EU and SA tendering procedures; - change of staff within the beneficiaries' management units; - extremely long time taken by the benficiaries to finalize and sign financing agreements; - lack of procedures allowing for local execution of payments; - a major reorganisation of the Commission's External Relations services affecting particulary the project implementation cycle. At the end of the year the South African administration streamlined certain procedures to allow Financing Agreements to be signed more speedily. However, at the end of 1987, a lack of payment credits led to a number of payments being held over to 1999. In addition, the report includes details about the cooperation partners, coordination with the Member States as was set out in the initial proposal. To conclude, in July 1998 the Court of Auditors released a special report on EC development aid to South Africa. These recommendations

are being taken into account by the Commission in its preparation of a proposal for the continuation of the EPRD beyond the year 2000. It is also highlighted in the report that the Delegation and the South African Administration will be required to relieve some of the severe pressure on each of the Commission services concerned.

EC/South Africa relations: financial, technical and economic cooperation

1995/0110(SYN) - 22/11/1996

Following the conclusion of the cooperation procedure the Council adopted the regulation which is identical to its common position adopted on 19 March 1996. The Commission shall be responsible for implementing operations covered by the regulation. It will be assisted by a committee composed of representatives of Member States; for decisions relating to grants of more than 2 MECU the Commission will act in accordance with the opinion of the committee (type IIIa - regulatory committee procedure).

EC/South Africa relations: financial, technical and economic cooperation

1995/0110(SYN) - 19/03/1996

Following the agreement of principle reached at its meeting on 20 December 1995, the Council formally adopted its common position on development cooperation with South Africa .

EC/South Africa relations: financial, technical and economic cooperation

1995/0110(SYN) - 04/10/1996 - Modified legislative proposal

The Commission points out in its amended proposal that it is prepared to accept, in full or in part, 4 amendments approved by the European Parliament at second reading: - it agreed with the reference to dialogue with the South-African government but regretted the explicit reference to the National Development Agency (South-African coordinating NGO for which provision has been made but which has yet to be set up); - it also deleted, as the European Parliament had done, any reference to the financial reference amount for the action and the date of expiry of the regulation from the main body of the text; - it also amended the type of committee in charge of assisting it (IIa rather than IIIa). However, it rejected the amendment seeking to authorize the head of the Commission delegation in South Africa to grant appropriations for projects and actions funded under the regulation, nor did it support the provision for an MEP to attend the committee meetings as an observer.

EC/South Africa relations: financial, technical and economic cooperation

1995/0110(SYN) - 20/12/1995

The Council reached unanimous agreement on the common position on the Regulation on development cooperation with South Africa . The common position, which the Commission did not support, will be forwarded to the European Parliament under the cooperation procedure (Article 189b). The aim of the Regulation is to create a legal framework for implementing financial, technical and economic cooperation through the intermediary of the European Programme for Reconstruction and Development in South Africa (EPRD). In 1986 the Community instituted positive measures to support the transition to democracy in South Africa by financing over 700 projects totalling some ECU 450 million. The objective of the EPRD is to contribute to South Africa ’s harmonious and sustainable economic and social development and to consolidate the foundations laid for a democratic society and a constitutional state in which human rights and fundamental freedoms are respected. It gives priority to the poorest sections of the population in South Africa . The common position lays down the procedures for Community financing and the possibilities for cofinancing, and programming of operations. It also establishes the procedures for coordination with the Member States and the committee procedure (type IIIa regulatory committee). The common position provides for the expiry of the Regulation on 31 December 1999 and total finance of ECU 500 million.