

Basic information	
1995/0166(SYN) SYN - Cooperation procedure (historic) EC/developing countries: aid for population policies and programmes in developing countries Repealed by 2002/0052(COD) Subject 6.40.12 Relations with developing countries in general	Procedure completed

Key players				
European Parliament	Committee responsible		Rapporteur	Appointed
	DEVE Development and Cooperation		NORDMANN Jean-Thomas (ELDR)	17/10/1995
	Former committee responsible		Former rapporteur	Appointed
	DEVE Development and Cooperation		NORDMANN Jean-Thomas (ELDR)	17/10/1995
	Former committee for opinion		Former rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
	BUDG Budgets		GREDLER Martina (ELDR)	24/01/1996
	CONT Budgetary Control		WYNN Terence (PSE)	25/10/1995
Council of the European Union	Council configuration		Meetings	Date
	General Affairs		2024	1997-07-22
	Development		1967	1996-11-22

Key events			
Date	Event	Reference	Summary
08/09/1995	Legislative proposal published	COM(1995)0295	Summary
09/10/1995	Committee referral announced in Parliament		

24/04/1996	Vote in committee		Summary
24/04/1996	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading	A4-0122/1996	
23/05/1996	Debate in Parliament		
04/09/1996	Modified legislative proposal published	COM(1996)0433 	Summary
22/11/1996	Council position published	11095/3/1996	Summary
12/12/1996	Committee referral announced in Parliament, 2nd reading		
25/02/1997	Vote in committee, 2nd reading		Summary
25/02/1997	Committee recommendation tabled for plenary, 2nd reading	A4-0057/1997	
12/03/1997	Debate in Parliament		Summary
21/05/1997	Modified legislative proposal published	COM(1997)0216 	
22/07/1997	Act adopted by Council after consultation of Parliament		Summary
22/07/1997	End of procedure in Parliament		
30/07/1997	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	1995/0166(SYN)
Procedure type	SYN - Cooperation procedure (historic)
Procedure subtype	Legislation
Amendments and repeals	Repealed by 2002/0052(COD)
Legal basis	EC Treaty (before Amsterdam) E 130W
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	DEVE/4/08466

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading		A4-0122/1996 OJ C 152 27.05.1996, p. 0004	24/04/1996	
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading		T4-0301/1996 OJ C 166 10.06.1996, p. 0234-0245	24/05/1996	Summary
Committee recommendation tabled for plenary, 2nd reading		A4-0057/1997 OJ C 115 14.04.1997, p. 0005	25/02/1997	
Text adopted by Parliament, 2nd reading		T4-0096/1997 OJ C 115 14.04.1997, p. 0115-0133	13/03/1997	Summary

Council of the EU			
Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Council position	11095/3/1996 OJ C 006 09.01.1997, p. 0008	22/11/1996	Summary
European Commission			
Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Legislative proposal	COM(1995)0295 OJ C 310 22.11.1995, p. 0013	08/09/1995	Summary
Modified legislative proposal	COM(1996)0433  OJ C 323 29.10.1996, p. 0007	04/09/1996	Summary
Commission communication on Council's position	SEC(1996)2238 	05/12/1996	Summary
Modified legislative proposal	COM(1997)0216 	21/05/1997	

Additional information		
Source	Document	Date
European Commission	EUR-Lex	

Final act
Regulation 1997/1484 OJ L 202 30.07.1997, p. 0001
Summary

EC/developing countries: aid for population policies and programmes in developing countries

1995/0166(SYN) - 24/05/1996 - Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading

Adopting the report by Mr Jean-Thomas NORDMANN (ELDR, F), the European Parliament approved the proposal for a regulation with the following amendments: - it pointed out that individual freedom of choice in reproductive matters for men and women is an important factor in progress and development and noted a trend in some developing countries towards a reduction in birth rates; - it emphasized that the Community encourages the right of an individual to choose the number and spacing of their children, and condemned any country or organization which abuses human rights by the promotion of coerced abortion, forced sterilization, infanticide or the rejection, neglect and abuse of unwanted children as a means to control the growth of population; - it called for cooperation to take account of all the aspects of demography (birth rates, mortality rates, migration etc.) and for the population dimension to be incorporated over time into the various aspects of development policy; - it hoped, in particular, that ECU 300 million would be allocated to this policy by the year 2000, as the Community had undertaken at the Cairo Conference; - it also called for this policy to: . enable women and men to make a free and informed choice about the number and spacing of their children by preventing unwanted pregnancies and sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV/AIDS; . contribute to the creation of a socio-cultural, economic and educational environment, especially for women and girls, by condemning all forms of sexual violence; . encourage gender equality in family life; . comply strictly with the decision taken at the Cairo Conference that abortion should under no circumstances be encouraged as a family planning method. There was therefore no funding for interruptions of pregnancy from this budget line; . support the establishment and development of reproductive health and family-planning services; . improve reproductive health care infrastructure, equipment, supplies or training (including safe motherhood, antenatal and postnatal care, family planning and the prevention and management of HIV/AIDS); . support the introduction of a family policy, including education and literacy programmes, incorporating

information on reliable, legal methods of contraception; - it also called for the programme to be conducted on the basis of dialogue with the national, regional and local authorities concerned, in such a way as to avoid imposing policies without consultation and to take account of the cultural, social and economic situation of the population groups involved. Women should play a prominent role in the implementation and planning of the programme; - participation in invitations to tender and the award of contracts should be open on equal terms to natural and legal persons of the Member States, the recipient country and other developing countries. It could, in duly justified special cases, be extended to other third countries; - a financial contribution from local partners was requested (primarily for operating costs); - Community assistance should not be granted to countries or organizations which authorized or encouraged coerced abortion, forced sterilization or infanticide as methods for controlling population growth; - transparency should be strengthened: the Commission's general policy meetings must take place in public and the minutes must be forwarded to the European Parliament and the Council; - the Regulation should be subject to review after the first five years.

EC/developing countries: aid for population policies and programmes in developing countries

1995/0166(SYN) - 22/07/1997

The Council adopted a Regulation on aid for population policies and programmes in the developing countries. The financial reference amount for the implementation of the programme for the period 1998-2002 is ECU 35 million.

EC/developing countries: aid for population policies and programmes in developing countries

1995/0166(SYN) - 08/09/1995 - Legislative proposal

OBJECTIVE: to establish the management methods and rules applicable to cooperation operations to assist population policies in developing countries. CONTENT: - The measures contained in the present regulation seek to: . enable adults to make a free choice about the number of children which they have (establishment and development of family planning services); . help create a socio-cultural climate conducive to the exercise of that choice (education for women, support for information campaigns etc.); . help develop health systems in order to improve the care given to women and children (in terms of infrastructure and equipment). - Recipients and cooperation partners: countries, regions, decentralized services, regional organizations, public agencies, local or traditional communities, private operators, including cooperatives and NGOs representing the local populace. - Actions to be implemented: within the framework of the general objectives of this operation, Community funding may cover investment expenditure (except for the purchase of buildings) and operating expenditure in foreign or local currency, but only during the launch stage. Actions include studies, technical assistance, training and other services. Joint financing is eagerly sought from the Member States or from multilateral or regional organizations and, where possible, from local partners. Provision is made for measures to coordinate with and complement similar Community operations in this sector. - Type of aid: grants. - Decision-making procedure: the Commission will manage the operations implemented under this regulation, assisted by three advisory committees (FED, ALA and MED committees). Participation in invitations to tender and the award of contracts is open to recipient countries and Member States as well as other third developing or other countries in exceptional cases. - Exchange of views: once a year the Commission will hold an exchange of views with the three committees on the subject of future operations to be carried out within the framework of this cooperation. - Information: the European Parliament and the Council will receive an annual report summarizing and evaluating the operations financed during the financial year (contracts concluded, external evaluations etc.). - Budget: the financial statement makes provision for a budget of 7 million ecus in 1996 (this cooperation does not contain any provisions as to duration and is therefore renewable annually).

EC/developing countries: aid for population policies and programmes in developing countries

1995/0166(SYN) - 04/09/1996 - Modified legislative proposal

In its amended proposal, the Commission was able to accept 26 of the 40 amendments approved by Parliament at first reading, in full or in part. These included: - inclusion of references to the results of the World Conference on Population and Development (Cairo, 1994); - stressing the right of individuals to decide on the number and spacing of their children (denouncing any violation of human rights in the form of compulsory abortion, compulsory sterilization, any form of sexual violence or abuse, etc.); - stressing women's right to choose with regard to family planning; - gradual integration of population issues into the various aspects of the Community's development cooperation policy; - including reproductive health care in projects eligible for aid (perinatal care, family planning, prevention of STD and AIDS, etc.) and family planning policy (including information on safe and legal contraception methods); - including the NGOs and associations representing local populations among the beneficiaries of aid; - putting women in the forefront of the implementation and evaluation of projects; - implementing initiatives on the basis of dialogue with the national regional and local authorities concerned, to take account of the economic, social and cultural background of the sections of the population concerned; - providing for a financial contribution from the local partners in respect of operating costs; - providing for information on and coordination of Community measures with operations financed by other bilateral or multilateral providers of funds; - reviewing the regulation after five years. The Commission did not accept the amendments on: - amending the procedure for implementing cooperation measures; - an increase in the EC financial contribution from ECU 300 m in the years up to 2000; - opening the Commission's meeting on general guidelines to Parliament and the Council; - an across-the-board ban on funding for abortions (the Commission thought that funding could be provided under this budget item for the health care needed to reduce deaths resulting from abortions carried out in poor conditions or abnormal pregnancies).

EC/developing countries: aid for population policies and programmes in developing countries

1995/0166(SYN) - 05/12/1996 - Commission communication on Council's position

In its opinion on the common position on the proposal for a regulation concerning aid for population programmes in developing countries, the Commission stated that there were two main reasons why it could not support the Council's text: - firstly, it believed that the information to be provided to the Council (ex-ante and ex-post information on all financing decisions for either the committee or the Member States) went far beyond what was necessary to ensure an adequate level of transparency and a justifiable allocation of human resources, - secondly, the comitology (regulatory rather than advisory committee) implied complex decision-making procedures. The other amendments tabled by the Council were accepted by the Commission.

EC/developing countries: aid for population policies and programmes in developing countries

1995/0166(SYN) - 13/03/1997 - Text adopted by Parliament, 2nd reading

In adopting the recommendation for second reading by Mr Jean-Thomas NORDMANN (ELDR, F) on the adoption of a regulation on aid for population programmes in the developing countries Parliament approved the Council's common position with the following amendments: - it called for organizations which approve of or encourage compulsory abortion or sterilization and infanticide as methods of controlling population to be excluded from Community support; - it opposed the establishment of a IIIa type regulatory committee recommended by the Council and provided that the Commission should be assisted by ALA, MED and EDF committees, depending on the region concerned by the aid and according to the advisory committee procedure. Parliament also pointed out that following the Cairo World Conference on Population and Development in 1994, the Community decided to provide ECU 300 million up to the year 2000 in financial support for population programmes in developing countries. The beneficiaries of this aid will be primarily the poorest and least developed countries and the most disadvantaged sections of the population in the developing countries.

EC/developing countries: aid for population policies and programmes in developing countries

1995/0166(SYN) - 22/07/1997 - Final act

OBJECTIVE: to establish cooperation to assist population policies and programmes in developing countries. COMMUNITY MEASURE: Council Regulation (EC) No 1484/97 on aid for population policies and programmes in the developing countries. SUBSTANCE: The measures are to supplement and support the aid provided under other development cooperation instruments (particularly education and health), and concentrate on the following priority objectives: .enabling women, men and adolescents to make a free choice about the number and spacing of their children, .creating a socio-cultural, economic and educational environment conducive to the full exercise of that choice, especially by condemning and eradicating all forms of sexual violence, mutilation and abuse, .helping develop or reform health systems in order to improve reproductive health care for women and men. - Activities eligible: Community aid is granted, as a priority, to the countries which have furthest to go before they meet the criteria formulated by the International Population Conference in Cairo, the poorest and least advanced countries and the most disadvantaged sections of the population. It is granted to projects in the following areas: . support for the establishment, development and increased availability of reproductive health care services as part of programmes implemented by governments, international bodies, NGOs and private operators (with priority for pregnant women and adolescents); .help with policies which contribute to the better reproductive health of women and girls; .the improvement of reproductive health care services, encompassing safe pregnancies, perinatal care, family planning, prevention and treatment of sexually transmitted diseases and AIDS (infrastructure, equipment, supplies, training, research); .support for information, education and awareness campaigns aimed at promoting better reproductive health and an understanding of population issues; .family-planning policy and services (information on safe and effective family-planning methods); .the development of grassroots structures, the voluntary sector, local NGOs and south-south cooperation for the implementation of programmes and support for cooperation networks between partners. -Cooperation partners: regional and international organizations, local and Member State based NGOs, national, provincial and local government departments and agencies, and community-based organizations (including women's organizations, institutes and public and private operators). -Dialogue: cooperation initiatives are to be implemented on the basis of dialogue with the national, regional and local authorities concerned so as to avoid programmes which are coercive or prejudicial to fundamental human rights. Women in particular will be invited to take part in the design, planning, implementation and evaluation of all projects. -Instruments for cooperation: studies, technical assistance, training or other services, such as supplies and works, and audits and evaluation and monitoring missions. -Expenditure eligible: investment costs (excluding purchase of real estate) and operating costs (mainly during the start-up phase of projects). Cofinancing with Member States and with organizations carrying out projects is keenly sought, depending on the nature of each project and within the limits of the possibilities available to the partners concerned. Contributions from partners are particularly sought in respect of operating costs in order to ensure the viability of projects once Community funding comes to an end. -Form of aid: grants. -Profile of Community-aided projects: measures will be taken to ensure the Community character of projects. -Coherence and complementarity: coordination measures with the Commission are planned, in order to ensure that the measures carried out between all the partners, including Member States, are effective (an information exchange and coordination system is to be established at the place where measures are to be carried out). Coordination will also be ensured with the work of other international organizations active in this field (United Nations Population Fund). -Decision-making procedure: the Commission is to be responsible for appraising and managing operations covered by the Regulation. The selection of projects is to take into account a range of criteria including, in particular, the viability of operations, cultural and social aspects and equality of the sexes, institutional development and experience gained from other operations of the same kind. The Commission will be assisted by the geographically-determined committee depending on the country concerned (ALA, MED, EDF),

acting under the regulatory committee procedure (type III(a)). The Commission is required to provide the committee responsible, in advance, with summaries of all decisions concerning projects costing less than ECU 2 m. Decisions on projects costing more must be taken in agreement with the committee. Participation in invitations to tender and the award of contracts will be open to the recipient countries and the Member States, as well other developing countries or possibly, in exceptional cases, other countries. Particular attention is to be given to the pursuit of cost-effectiveness in the selection of projects and the clear definition of objectives and indications of achievement. -Information: the Commission is to submit an annual report to the European Parliament and the Council summarising and evaluating the operations financed during the year (any contracts concluded, external evaluations, etc.). It is also to inform the Member States, within one month after the decision, of the operations and projects approved. Once each year an exchange of views will take place between the Commission and the various committees concerned on the subject of the general outlines of the operations to be carried out in the year ahead. -Evaluation: the Commission will regularly evaluate the operations implemented to check whether the objectives of the Regulation have been attained. These evaluations are to be forwarded to the various committees and to those Member States which wish to receive them. Three years after the entry into force of the Regulation, a general assessment of the operations financed will be carried out with a view to the possible extension or amendment of the Regulation. - Budget: ECU 35 m from 1998 to 2002. The annual appropriations are to be authorized by the budgetary authority within the limits of the financial perspective. ENTRY INTO FORCE: the Regulation enters into force on 02.08.1997 and is applicable until 31.12.2002.

EC/developing countries: aid for population policies and programmes in developing countries

1995/0166(SYN) - 22/11/1996 - Council position

In its common position on the proposal for a regulation on aid for population policies and programmes in the developing countries, the Council has incorporated 22 of the 40 amendments adopted by Parliament at first reading either in their initial form or in a modified form. These amendments seek in particular: - to incorporate references to the International Conference on Population and Development (Cairo, 1994), - to stress the right of individuals to decide on the number and spacing of births (denunciation of compulsory abortions, compulsory sterilization, infanticide and sexual mutilation as a means of curbing population growth), - to reject incentives to encourage sterilization, improper testing of contraceptive methods or abortion as methods of family planning (no financial support will be authorized under this regulation for such areas), - to support measures for improving access to reproductive health care services (perinatal care, treatment of sexually transmitted diseases and AIDS) and family planning (information on methods of contraception), - to integrate local NGOs in the implementation of these initiatives, with women playing a special part, - to provide for the participation of local partners in the operating expenditure and for the possibility of co-financing from other fund providers. In addition to the editorial amendments the Council also incorporated other modifications to the text, which include: - the insertion of a new article specifying that the countries receiving the aid will primarily be those having the most difficulty in achieving the criteria defined by the Cairo Conference, the poorest and least developed countries and the most disadvantaged sections of the population of developing countries, - making this regulation consistent with other EC development and cooperation instruments in order to take account fully of population aspects in Union programmes, - the coordination of the actions implemented by the Community with those undertaken by other fund providers (in particular the United Nations), - the introduction of new provisions on appraisal and ex-ante and ex-post information on financing decisions (information to the committee for all projects of less than ECU 2 million in value one week before the decision and information to the Member States on the projects as a whole one month after the decision), - a change in the type of committee responsible for assisting the Commission in its work (regulatory rather than advisory committee), - the insertion of a financial reference amount in the body of the text: ECU 35 million for the period 1998 to 2002, - provision for an overall assessment of this regulation with a view to amending or prolonging it .