Basic information

1997/0103(COD) COD - Ordinary legislative procedure (ex-codecision procedure) Decision	Procedure completed
Community action programme Socrates: financial framework 1995-1999 Amending Decision No 819/95/EC 1994/0001(COD) **Subject** 4.40.01 European area for education, training and lifelong learning	

Key players

European Parliament	**Former committee for opinion**	**Former rapporteur for opinion**	**Appointed**
	BUDG Budgets	DÜHRKOP DÜHRKOP Bárbara (PSE)	15/04/1997

Council of the European Union	**Council configuration**	**Meetings**	**Date**
	Agriculture and Fisheries	2028	1997-09-22
	Education, Youth, Culture and Sport	2020	1997-06-26
	Research	2067	1998-02-12

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
14/03/1997	Legislative proposal published	COM(1997)0099	Summary
07/04/1997	Committee referral announced in Parliament, 1st reading		
22/05/1997	Vote in committee, 1st reading		Summary
22/05/1997	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading	A4-0188/1997	
12/06/1997	Debate in Parliament		Summary
26/06/1997	Modified legislative proposal published	COM(1997)0338	Summary
22/09/1997	Council position published	10277/2/1997	Summary
02/10/1997	Committee referral announced in Parliament, 2nd reading		
13/10/1997	Vote in committee, 2nd reading		Summary
13/10/1997	Committee recommendation tabled for plenary, 2nd reading	A4-0320/1997	
			Summary

22/10/1997	Debate in Parliament		
03/12/1997	Parliament's amendments rejected by Council		
10/12/1997	Formal meeting of Conciliation Committee		
10/12/1997	Final decision by Conciliation Committee		Summary
14/01/1998	Joint text approved by Conciliation Committee co-chairs	3634/1997	
15/01/1998	Report tabled for plenary, 3rd reading	A4-0012/1998	
28/01/1998	Debate in Parliament		Summary
12/02/1998	Decision by Council, 3rd reading		
23/02/1998	Final act signed		
23/02/1998	End of procedure in Parliament		
14/03/1998	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	1997/0103(COD)
Procedure type	COD - Ordinary legislative procedure (ex-codecision procedure)
Procedure subtype	Legislation
Legislative instrument	Decision
Amendments and repeals	Amending Decision No 819/95/EC 1994/0001(COD)
Legal basis	EC Treaty (before Amsterdam) E 127 EC Treaty (before Amsterdam) E 126
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	CODE/4/09580

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading		A4-0188/1997 OJ C 182 16.06.1997, p. 0003	22/05/1997	
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading		T4-0313/1997 OJ C 200 30.06.1997, p. 0097-0135	12/06/1997	Summary
Committee recommendation tabled for plenary, 2nd reading		A4-0320/1997 OJ C 339 10.11.1997, p. 0007	13/10/1997	
Text adopted by Parliament, 2nd reading		T4-0504/1997 OJ C 339 10.11.1997, p. 0089-0122	23/10/1997	Summary
Report tabled for plenary by Parliament delegation to Conciliation Committee, 3rd reading		A4-0012/1998 OJ C 056 23.02.1998, p. 0004	15/01/1998	
		T4-0050/1998		

Text adopted by Parliament, 3rd reading		OJ C 056 23.02.1998, p. 0012-0018	29/01/1998	Summary

Council of the EU

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Council position	10277/2/1997 OJ C 315 16.10.1997, p. 0001	22/09/1997	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Legislative proposal	COM(1997)0099	14/03/1997	Summary
Modified legislative proposal	COM(1997)0338 OJ C 262 28.08.1997, p. 0003	26/06/1997	Summary
Commission communication on Council's position	SEC(1997)1761	26/09/1997	Summary
Commission opinion on Parliament's position at 2nd reading	COM(1997)0636	20/11/1997	Summary

Other institutions and bodies

Institution/body	Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
EESC	Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report	CES0593/1997 OJ C 287 22.09.1997, p. 0023	28/05/1997	Summary
CofR	Committee of the Regions: opinion	CDR0151/1997 OJ C 379 15.12.1997, p. 0017	17/09/1997	
CSL/EP	Joint text approved by Conciliation Committee co-chairs	3634/1997	14/01/1998	

Additional information

Source	Document	Date
European Commission	EUR-Lex	

Final act

Decision 1998/0576
OJ L 077 14.03.1998, p. 0001 Summary

Community action programme Socrates: financial framework 1995-1999

1997/0103(COD) - 28/05/1997 - Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report

The Committee welcomed the proposal insofar as it sought to increase the programme's budget. However, it reiterated its view that the proposed budget was insufficient for the ambitious objectives and measures pursued. The Committee asked the Commission to step up checks against fraud so as to avoid any possible diversion of funds. When granting aid, it would be helpful to establish a fine-tuning mechanism for distributing funds according to the real needs of recipients, so that those with fewer resources received more aid. This would be the best way to guarantee the principle of fair access to the EU Socrates Fund. The Committee thought that Community aid should be allocated in the most transparent manner possible. It therefore called on the Commission and Member States to introduce the requisite mechanisms to guarantee equal access opportunities for all persons interested in taking part in the programme and to ensure that Socrates reached the maximum number of students, teachers and institutions and that aid did not remain the preserve of certain persons or institutions.

Community action programme Socrates: financial framework 1995-1999

1997/0103(COD) - 20/11/1997 - Commission opinion on Parliament's position at 2nd reading

In its opinion amending the proposal following the second reading of the European Parliament, the Commission stated that it was not in a position to adopt the only amendment approved by Parliament relating to the increase in budgetary appropriations for the Socrates programme of ECU 100 million. Though it backed Parliament's efforts towards achieving an increased financial package for this programme, the Commission considered that in the current climate of budget stringency it was not possible to support Parliament's proposal, while the Council did not even accept the Commission's proposal for a limited increase of ECU 50 million. It therefore suggested, by virtue of the powers conferred by the Treaty, that the positions of the Council and of the European Parliament be resolved under the forthcoming conciliation procedure.

Community action programme Socrates: financial framework 1995-1999

1997/0103(COD) - 26/06/1997 - Modified legislative proposal

In its amended proposal, the Commission did not accept the main amendment made by Parliament at first reading, which concerned increasing the budget allocation to ECU 100 m rather than the ECU 50 m originally proposed by the Commission. However, it accepted other amendments whose purpose was: -to stress that the success of the programme would be compromised if the percentage of projects supported were to be reduced and if the annual average amount of support granted fell below a critical threshold, which would disadvantage those from less favoured backgrounds, -to provide for adequate funding to enable the associated countries of Central and Eastern Europe and Cyprus to participate in the programme from 1998. It also incorporated an amendment stating that additional Socrates funding could be incorporated within the overall allocation for heading 3 of the financial perspective and within the limit of the appropriations available during the two financial years concerned.

Community action programme Socrates: financial framework 1995-1999

1997/0103(COD) - 14/03/1997 - Legislative proposal

OBJECTIVE: to increase the financial framework for the SOCRATES programme by ECU 50 million for the period up to 31 December 1999. SUBSTANCE: Since its entry into force on 1 January 1995 the SOCRATES programme has been very successful and in the two years of its existence has produced significant results (as indicated in the assessment report attached to the proposal). Pursuant to the joint European Parliament and Council declaration of 6 March 1995 attached to decision 819/95/EC establishing the SOCRATES programme, the Commission has submitted in addition to the assessment report the proposals it considers appropriate for the modification of the programme, in this case restricted to the increase of the financial framework from the initial ECU 850 million to ECU 900 million. The reasons for this increase of ECU 50 million are given by the Commission in its assessment report which states that after 1997 the resources allocated to SOCRATES will no longer permit achievement of the objectives listed in the decision (for certain parts of the programme the amount requested by applicants is around nine times the annual budget available, etc.). As the inadequacy of budgetary resources is increasing all the time, the Commission calls for a limited increase of ECU 50 million (an increase in the financial framework of some 6%) for 1998 and 1999.

Community action programme Socrates: financial framework 1995-1999

1997/0103(COD) - 29/01/1998 - Text adopted by Parliament, 3rd reading

The European Parliament approved the joint text concerning the Socrates programme, allocating an overall amount of ECU 70 million to the programme for the period 1998-1999.

Community action programme Socrates: financial framework 1995-1999

1997/0103(COD) - 23/10/1997 - Text adopted by Parliament, 2nd reading

In adopting the recommendation for second reading by Mrs Doris PACK (PPE, D) regarding an increase in budgetary appropriations for the SOCRATES Programme, Parliament once more called for a SOCRATES financial framework of ECU 950 m, increasing the appropriations for the programme by ECU 100 m instead of ECU 25 m proposed by the Council.

Community action programme Socrates: financial framework 1995-1999

1997/0103(COD) - 23/02/1998 - Final act

OBJECTIVE: to increase the financial framework for the Socrates programme by ECU 70 million for the period to 31 December 1999. COMMUNITY MEASURE: Decision 576/98/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Decision 819/95/EC establishing the Community action programme Socrates. SUBSTANCE: Given the considerable success of the Socrates Programme since it started on 1 January 1995 and the ever-increasing demand for participation in its activities, Parliament and the Council, in accordance with the joint Council/Commission/Parliament Declaration of Decision 819/95/EC establishing Socrates, agree to modify the budget allowed for the programme. The initial financial framework of ECU 850m is increased to ECU 920m for the years 1998-1999. This increase will make it possible to avoid compromising the effectiveness of the programme's current operations, as its impact could be seriously affected if the percentage of projects supported fell below a critical threshold, and will enable some associated countries of Central and Eastern Europe and Cyprus to participate fully in the programme from 1998 onwards. ENTRY INTO FORCE: 14.03.1998

Community action programme Socrates: financial framework 1995-1999

1997/0103(COD) - 12/06/1997 - Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading

In adopting the report by Mrs Doris PACK (EPP, D) on the increase in the budget for the Socrates programme, Parliament calls for that increase to be ECU 100 m, rather than the ECU 50 m proposed by the European Commission, bringing the overall budget to ECU 950 m. Parliament takes the view that the success of the programme would be seriously jeopardized if the percentage of projects supported had to be reduced and if the average annual support granted were to fall below a critical threshold, to the detriment of the least-favoured groups. Moreover, given that the associated countries from Central and Eastern Europe and Cyprus will take full part in the programme as from 1998, it is essential to provide for an adequate financial framework in order not to reduce in real terms the overall financial contribution earmarked for Socrates.

Community action programme Socrates: financial framework 1995-1999

1997/0103(COD) - 22/09/1997 - Council position

In its common position on the modification of the Socrates programme, the Council has not accepted the proposal of the European Commission for allocating this programme an additional ECU 50 million for the period 1998-1999. It has merely agreed to a limited financial supplement of ECU 25 million, thereby providing the programme with a total budget of ECU 875 million. The Council considers that this allocation represents an equitable compromise between two contradictory demands: -on one hand, the need to increase the budget allocation for Socrates in order to make this programme more accessible to new users, - on the other, the need to pursue the objective of budgetary stringency, which is felt by a majority of the Member States. The Council accepts 5 of the 6 amendments approved by the European Parliament in first reading (in particular, a financial package sufficient to meet the needs of the Central and Eastern European countries and Cyprus, the maintenance of a critical mass of funding, incorporation of the additional Socrates funding under heading 3 of the financial perspectives, etc.). However, it does not accept the major amendment put forward by the European Parliament, namely the increased budget allocation of ECU 100 million instead of the 50 million proposed by the European Commission.

Community action programme Socrates: financial framework 1995-1999

1997/0103(COD) - 26/09/1997 - Commission communication on Council's position

In its assessment of the common position established by the Council, amending the decision establishing the SOCRATES Programme, the Commission announced that it was unable to accept the Council's proposal to limit to ECU 25 m the increase in the budgetary appropriation instead of the ECU 50 m proposed by the Commission in its initial proposal. It took the view that the ECU 900 m which it had proposed was an absolute minimum to meet the objectives and the needs of the SOCRATES Action Programme and it expressed the hope that the final decision would reflect this proposal as closely as possible and that the text would be adopted sufficiently early enough to be implemented at the beginning of 1998.