Basic information

1997/0916(CNS) CNS - Consultation procedure Decision	Procedure completed
Fight against organized crime: exchanges, training and cooperation. 1998-2002 FALCONE programme **Subject** 7.30.30 Action to combat crime	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
LIBE Civil Liberties and Internal Affairs	ORLANDO Leoluca (V)	15/09/1997

Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
BUDG Budgets		
JURI Legal Affairs, Citizens' Rights	NASSAUER Hartmut (PPE)	27/11/1997
CONT Budgetary Control	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	

Council of the European Union

Council configuration	Meetings	Date
Justice and Home Affairs (JHA)	2075	1998-03-19
Justice and Home Affairs (JHA)	2055	1997-12-04

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
20/10/1997	Legislative proposal published	COM(1997)0528	Summary
17/11/1997	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
04/12/1997	Debate in Council		
19/01/1998	Vote in committee		Summary
19/01/1998	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading	A4-0017/1998	

17/02/1998	Debate in Parliament		
19/03/1998	Act adopted by Council after consultation of Parliament		
19/03/1998	End of procedure in Parliament		
31/03/1998	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	1997/0916(CNS)
Procedure type	CNS - Consultation procedure
Procedure subtype	Legislation
Legislative instrument	Decision
Legal basis	EC Treaty (before Amsterdam) E 000
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	LIBE/4/09500

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading		A4-0017/1998 OJ C 056 23.02.1998, p. 0003	19/01/1998	
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading		T4-0063/1998 OJ C 080 16.03.1998, p. 0016-0036	17/02/1998	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Legislative proposal	COM(1997)0528	20/10/1997	Summary
Follow-up document	SEC(1999)1955	17/12/1999	
Follow-up document	SEC(2001)0018	08/01/2001	
Follow-up document	SEC(2003)0316	14/03/2003	
Follow-up document	SEC(2006)0333	07/03/2006	Summary

Additional information

Source	Document	Date
European Commission	EUR-Lex	

Final act
Justice and Home Affairs act 1998/0245 OJ L 099 31.03.1998, p. 0008-0012

Fight against organized crime: exchanges, training and cooperation. 1998-2002 FALCONE programme

1997/0916(CNS) - 17/02/1998 - Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading

Adopting the report by Mr Leoluca Orlando (V, I), Parliament approved the Falcone programme with the following amendments: - apart from the current beneficiaries of the proposed measures under the joint action (judges, prosecutors, police and customs departments and civil servants), Parliament has added 'other persons with responsibility for the fight against organized crime': those responsible for a society's cultural climate, such as teachers or university professors, NGO officials and representatives of certain sensitive professions such as lawyers, accountants or auditors; - Parliament has also amended the list of planned measures in the programme and deleted the financing of meetings and conferences (preferring to keep to the organization of training courses and seminars); - with regard to Community financial support, Parliament calls for the financial contribution from the Community not to exceed 60% of the cost of the project, except for measures for applicant countries where the rate should not exceed 80%; - with regard to access to funding, Parliament calls for a project to be financed if three Member States or two Member States and one applicant country are participating, with a view to familiarizing future EU members with the Community acquis in this area. In parallel, Parliament urges that funding granted under the joint action should cover tasks specifically connected with the joint implementation of the project. It also amends the co-financing threshold above which the Commission must inform the Falcone programme committee (ECU 200 000 instead of the current ECU 50 000) and changes parts of the proposal concerned with decision-making. Finally, Parliament asks to be informed of the annual programme adopted in application of the joint measures and that its opinion be duly taken into account in drawing up this programme.

Fight against organized crime: exchanges, training and cooperation. 1998-2002 FALCONE programme

1997/0916(CNS) - 07/03/2006

This Commission staff working document consists of a report on the ex post evaluation of Grotius II, Oisin II, Stop II, Falcone and Hippokrates Programmes and the interim evaluation of the AGIS Programme.

To recall, since January 2003, the five former Programmes established under Title VI (Grotius, Oisin, Stop, Falcone and Hippokrates), that ran from 1996 until 2002, were brought together into a single Programme - the AGIS Framework Programme (2003-2007).

The main objectives of this document are as follows:

- to present a summary of the main results and conclusions of this evaluation;
- to assess the main recommendations;
- to present concrete proposals for the next programming period and, notably, to draw conclusions relevant to the implementation of the Programmes that are to replace the AGIS Programme.

The Commission has already presented to the Council and the European Parliament proposals for Programmes to replace the AGIS Programme (the Security Programme and, to some extent, the Justice Programme) in the next programming period. It must be underlined that the recommendations both general and specific that are discussed in this paper can be fully implemented under the new legal framework.

As regards the former Title VI Programmes, the ex post evaluation was centred on the last 2 years of implementation – 2001 and 2002. The evaluation exercise therefore focused on STOP II, Oisin II and Grotius II, which are the so-called second generation of Programmes, as well as in Hippokrates (2001/2002) and Falcone (2001/2002).

In the case of the interim evaluation of the AGIS Programme, the analysis focused on the 2 first years of implementation – 2003 and 2004**,** where a majority of grant-aided projects was still ongoing.

In geographical terms, the study covered all the countries that participated in the Programme - Member States (then 15), candidate countries (now the new 10 Member States) and third countries.

The main overall conclusions of the evaluation are as follows:

- the former Title VI programmes as well as the AGIS programme have been useful programmes that have made a very positive contribution to increasing knowledge, understanding and trust among target groups, which are crucial factors for increasing cross-national co-operation in the area, and ultimately to creating an area of justice, freedom and security;
- all programmes have led to the implementation of effective projects that in most cases would not have existed without the financial support of the programmes, or would have existed in a different format, where less focus would have been on the transnational aspects. While most stakeholders recognise the need and the benefits arising from transnational co-operation projects, there are few alternative funding opportunities that allow similar projects to take place;
- the transnational element is strong in most of the projects that have been implemented. It has, however, been more predominant or better integrated under the AGIS programme, as compared to the former Title VI programmes. The main explanation for this could be the strengthened requirements concerning partnerships;
- the programmes have led to the creation and strengthening of many formal and informal networks and this can be said to be one of their main merits. For the former Title VI programmes, it can be concluded that sustainable benefits do arise from these networks and that networks are generally found to be useful beyond the scope and lifetime of projects.
- the programmes were generally not found to be demand driven, in the sense that policy priorities and objectives do not determine the portfolio of projects. Objectives are broad and not clearly prioritised, allowing applicants to claim that most of their ideas match the programme objectives. Rather than being EU demand driven, most projects are thus supply driven, resulting from the specific interest of possible promoters;
- related to the previous point, Member States (programme committees) generally play a limited role in the formulation of specific objectives for annual work programmes, despite a specific AGIS Committee meeting every year being devoted to an examination of the annual work programme. Instead, the role of Member States' representatives in the committees is mainly found to be as advocates for national interests in the selection of particular projects.

The report concludes that the aim of the external evaluation and, even more so, of this paper is to feed into the implementation of the remainder of the AGIS Programme as well as the new programmes after 2006. The proposals from the Commission for new programmes from 2007 are compatible with the conclusions and recommendations of this document, as the former set quite a broad legislative framework and the latter pertain more to the policy use of the programmes and their implementation mechanisms.

As concerns the specific recommendations on implementing mechanisms, there is no doubt that they have to be applied during the next programming period.

Furthermore, the selection criteria for objectives and priority areas for the funding programmes need to be defined and agreed by all involved in the management of the programme. It is clear that founding documents, such as the Hague Programme and Action Plan, provide commonly agreed overall political objectives, which then need to be translated into concrete milestones for programme implementation. It is suggested that this is an iterative process between the Commission and the relevant management structures of the programmes, once views from relevant stakeholders have been collected and integrated.

In conclusion, all-embracing programmes as they currently exist would give way to much more specific ones, with outcomes, results and eventually impacts being more systematically disseminated and monitored.

Fight against organized crime: exchanges, training and cooperation. 1998-2002 FALCONE programme

1997/0916(CNS) - 20/10/1997 - Legislative proposal

OBJECTIVE: joint action establishing a programme of exchanges, training and cooperation for persons responsible for action to combat organized crime (Falcone programme). SUBSTANCE: the programme, to which a budget of ECU 10 m is assigned, will be established for the period 1997-2001 and will ensure the implementation of certain recommendations from the action plan to combat organized crime(see COS0548). The programme is aimed at those responsible for combating organized crime, i.e. judges, public prosecutors, police and customs departments, public tax authorities, authorities responsible for combating fraud and other representatives of professional circles who may be involved in the implementation of some of the recommendations in the action plan. The measures to be carried out will concern the following fields in particular: - training: improving mutual knowledge of regulations, etc, concerning the fight against organized crime and preparation of teaching modules for actions involving continuing training; - operational cooperation projects concerning combating organized crime: coordinated measures involving several Member States and one or more categories of persons responsible (customs officials, judges, etc) designed to improve skills and operational methods of combating organized crime (e.g. joint surveillance operations, etc.). Specific expert missions in the framework of the implementation of the procedure for the mutual assessment of national provisions relating to the fight against organized crime may also be financed (CNS97912); - visits to and seminars at the premises of specialized public bodies; - research and specialized studies: particularly comparison and evaluation of instruments directly or indirectly applicable to the fight against organized crime, new legislative initiatives or feasibility of pilot projects; - exchange of information between those responsible for combating organized crime: assistance in establishing networks of contact points between judicial or other authorities, development of databases or telematics networks incorporating legislation with a bearing on the fight against organized crime. In order to avoid duplication of effort, if a measure is financed under the Falcone programme no funding may be provided from other Justice and Internal Affairs sections of the Union budget or other Community programmes. Projects must involve at least two Member States in order to be eligible for Community support, which must not exceed 80% of the total cost of the measure. The applicant countries may participate in the programme, as may other third countries. The Commission will be responsible for the administration of the programme (including its financial aspects) and for drawing up the annual programme for the joint action. It will be assisted by a committee consisting of representatives of the Member States. A procedure is laid down which the Commission is to use in assessing projects. The European Parliament and Council are to be informed annually of the results of the projects financed.