Basic information

2001/0230(CNS) CNS - Consultation procedure Decision	Procedure completed
External borders, visas, asylum and immigration: action programme 2002-2006 for administrative cooperation ARGO Amended by 2004/0122(CNS) **Subject** 7.10.04 External borders crossing and controls, visas 7.10.06 Asylum, refugees, displaced persons; Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF) 7.10.08 Migration policy	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
LIBE Citizens' Freedoms and Rights, Justice and Home Affairs	OOSTLANDER Arie M. (PPE-DE)	21/11/2001

Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
BUDG Budgets	NARANJO ESCOBAR Juan Andrés (PPE-DE)	21/11/2001
JURI Legal Affairs and Internal Market	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
PETI Petitions	KESSLER Margot (PSE)	22/11/2001

Council of the European Union

Council configuration	Meetings	Date
Justice and Home Affairs (JHA)	2436	2002-06-13
Justice and Home Affairs (JHA)	2423	2002-04-25

European Commission

Commission DG	Commissioner
Justice and Consumers	

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
16/10/2001	Legislative proposal published	COM(2001)0567	Summary
12/11/2001	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
19/03/2002	Vote in committee		Summary
19/03/2002	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading	A5-0085/2002	
08/04/2002	Debate in Parliament		
09/04/2002	Decision by Parliament	T5-0152/2002	Summary
13/06/2002	Act adopted by Council after consultation of Parliament		
13/06/2002	End of procedure in Parliament		
19/06/2002	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2001/0230(CNS)
Procedure type	CNS - Consultation procedure
Procedure subtype	Legislation
Legislative instrument	Decision
Amendments and repeals	Amended by 2004/0122(CNS)
Legal basis	EC Treaty (after Amsterdam) EC 066
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	LIBE/5/15326

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading		A5-0085/2002	19/03/2002	
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading		T5-0152/2002 OJ C 127 29.05.2003, p. 0029-0143 E	09/04/2002	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Legislative proposal	COM(2001)0567 OJ C 025 29.01.2002, p. 0526 E	16/10/2001	Summary
Follow-up document	SEC(2004)0211	17/02/2004	Summary

Other institutions and bodies

Institution/body	Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
CofR	Committee of the Regions: opinion	CDR0093/2002 OJ C 278 14.11.2002, p. 0044	16/05/2002	

Additional information

Source	Document	Date
European Commission	EUR-Lex	

Final act

Decision 2002/0463
OJ L 161 19.06.2002, p. 0011-0015 Summary

External borders, visas, asylum and immigration: action programme 2002-2006 for administrative cooperation ARGO

2001/0230(CNS) - 09/04/2002 - Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading

The European Parliament adopted a resolution drafted by Arie OOSTLANDER (EPP-ED, Netherlands) on ARGO (administrative cooperation in the fields of external borders, visas, asylum and immigration.). (Please refer to the document dated 19/03/02). Parliament stated that Communitarisation of EU responsibility for controls at the EU's external borders will become all the more important now that enlargement is scheduled to take place during the period in which ARGO will be operational. ARGO should, accordingly, be seen as a modest forerunner of more extensive activities in this field. An additional objective of the programme is to make preparations for a responsibility-sharing scheme in which Community responsibility for the EU's external borders would apply.

External borders, visas, asylum and immigration: action programme 2002-2006 for administrative cooperation ARGO

2001/0230(CNS) - 13/06/2002 - Final act

PURPOSE : to adopt an action programmes for administrative co-operation in the fields of external borders, visas, asylum and immigration (ARGO programme). COMMUNITY MEASURE : Council Decision 2002/463/EC adopting an action programme for administrative co-operation in the field of external borders, visas, asylum and immigration (ARGO programme). CONTENT : the Council adopted a Decision adopting an action programme for administrative co-operation in the fields of external borders, visas, asylum and immigration (ARGO programme). To recall, the purpose of this programme, which covers the period from 1 January 2002 to 31 December 2006, is to support and complement the actions undertaken by the Community and the Member States in the implementation of Community legislation in the fields mentioned above and, in particular, to contribute to the following objectives: - to promote co-operation between national agencies in implementing Community rules with special attention to the pooling of resources and co-ordinated and homogeneous practices; - to promote uniform application of Community law in order to harmonise decisions taken by the national agencies of Member States, thereby avoiding malfunctioning likely to prejudice the progressive establishment of an area of freedom, security and justice; - to improve the overall efficiency of national agencies in the carrying out of their tasks when implementing Community rules; - to ensure that proper account is taken of the Community dimension in the organisation of national agencies contributing to the implementation of Community rules; - to encourage transparency of actions taken by national agencies by strengthening their relations with the relevant national and international governmental and non-governmental organisations. The amount allocated to the ARGO programme is EUR 25 million. This decision on the ARGO programme does not apply to Denmark or to Ireland. The Commission and the Member States shall monitor and evaluate the implementation of the ARGO programme on a continuous basis. Each year the Commission shall submit a report to the European Parliament and the Council on the implementation of the ARGO programme. The report shall analyse all the progress achieved and shall be accompanied where necessary by any proposals for ensuring homogeneous application in the Member States of Community legislation based on Articles 62 and 63 of the Treaty. The Commission shall submit the first report by 31 December 2003 at the latest and the final report by 31 December 2007 at the latest. This Decision shall apply from 19 June 2002.

External borders, visas, asylum and immigration: action programme 2002-2006 for administrative cooperation ARGO

2001/0230(CNS) - 16/10/2001 - Legislative proposal

PURPOSE: To develop an action programme for administrative co-operation in the fields of external borders, visas, asylum and immigration (ARGO). CONTENT: An ambitious programme to establish the EU as an area of Freedom, Security and Justice (AFSJ) finds its origin in the Treaty of Amsterdam as well as in the conclusions of the Tampere European Council. A series of Community measures aiming to realise the above objective have been presented to the Council. This proposal for a Council Decision builds upon previous measures through the establishment of an action programme for administrative co-operation in the fields of external borders, visas, asylum and immigration (ARGO). The objective of ARGO is to reinforce the effectiveness of the relevant procedures vis-a-vis asylum, visas, immigration and the control of external borders. It also aims to assist national administrations in the implementation of Community legislation based on Articles 62 and 63 of the TEC. One new, important element is the principle which seeks to implement the relevant Community rules independent of who the national administrations responsible for undertaking those actions are. The ultimate target being that third country nationals will be entitled to equivalent treatment when dealing with the national administrations responsible for applying Community legislation, thereby avoiding any differences in national practices likely to prejudice the establishment of an area of freedom, security and justice. Specific Community actions proposed focus mainly on: - Developing and spreading use of best working practices to computer practices and electronic exchange of data. - Defining and strengthening a common training policy by taking maximum advantage of the projects financed under the Odysseus Programme. This should result in the setting up of a genuine "common core of training" service. - Developing a common working methodology and culture between the Member States to foster a better understanding of the administrative processes in each Member State. The programme will be implemented through a partnership between the Commission and the Member States. An Annual Work Programme will be the central instrument used for implementation purposes. The Annual Work Programme will: - Identify actions which will improve the working methods of the competent administrations of Member States. - Determine community actions with regard to particular sectors. - Make rational use of resources. - Co-ordinate and plan training initiatives. In terms of funding, the programme may benefit from the Community budget in accordance with allocations in the budget line. A financial commitment from the Member States in accordance with their own budgetary procedures is also foreseen. For actions either already defined or otherwise covered by the Annual Work Programme the Community would offer help with co-financing.

External borders, visas, asylum and immigration: action programme 2002-2006 for administrative cooperation ARGO

2001/0230(CNS) - 17/02/2004 - Follow-up document

This is the first annual report of the European Commission to the Parliament and Council on the functioning of the ARGO programme. It covers the year 2002 plus part of 2003. A full evaluation of the ARGO programme will be launched in 2005 as specified in the Decision setting up the fund. The first annual report provides a narrative description of the ARGO programme plus some statistical tables of the actions proposed by the Member States following calls for proposals announced under the 2002 budget. The Report also provides information on eligible actions submitted in response to two calls for proposals published in 2003. A total of EUR 3 million was available to the ARGO programme in 2002 of which EUR 2 million was earmarked for shared actions between the Member States; EUR 700 000 was destined for Community actions and the remainder was set aside for specific urgent actions. There was no request for funding for this last measure and as a result it was put at the disposal of the Member States. In total the Commission received 15 proposals five of which were declared ineligible. Eight of the ten remaining proposal obtained the highest scores following an assessment by the evaluation committee whilst two proposals scored low marks. These two have been put on a reserve list. Some of the approved projects are yet to be completed with the final reports pending. As far as Commission activity is concerned the Commission sponsored two studies. The first examined how the EU could control its sea borders. It was submitted in July 2003 and cost EUR 300 000. The second was a feasibility study on a visa information system and cost EUR 400 000. When assessing the overall impact of ARGO for 2002, the Report emphasises that many of the projects selected for funding in 2002 are not complete and it is therefore impossible to offer a comprehensive analysis of the programme to date. What has become evident, however, is the "underperformance" of the ARGO programme. For example, the response in 2003 from the Member States to the calls for proposal was below expectations. Although reasons differ the Commission feels that one of the main causes for the low up-take are the difficulties national administrations have in adjusting to the financial rules and in particular their relationship with Community grants. Two further factors could help explain the scarce uptake of EU ARGO funds. The first is the lack of publicity for the programme. The Report, therefore, proposes stepping up work on publicising the programme with interested parties. The second problem being the failure of national administrations to foresee the necessary ARGO funds when submitting their annual or multi-annual financial planning. In order to address these shortfalls, the Commission proposes closer co-operation between the Commission services and national administrations. In return the Commission asks Member States to co-operate closer with each other for joint operations and foresee these in their financial planning commitments. One way forward would be for Member States to submit their plans and allocated resources for 2004 to the Commission. The Commission would then be in good position to pool this information with other Member States in a bid to boost co-ordination.