

Basic information	
2001/0243(COD) COD - Ordinary legislative procedure (ex-codecision procedure) Regulation	Procedure completed
Decentralised development cooperation: extension until 31 December 2003 Amending Regulation (EC) No 1659/98 1995/0159(SYN) Subject 6.30 Development cooperation 6.30.02 Financial and technical cooperation and assistance	

Key players				
European Parliament	Committee responsible		Rapporteur	Appointed
	DEVE Development and Cooperation		CARRILHO Maria (PSE)	27/11/2001
	Committee for opinion		Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
	BUDG Budgets			
	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)		2423	2002-04-25
European Commission	Commission DG		Commissioner	
	Development			

Key events			
Date	Event	Reference	Summary
23/10/2001	Legislative proposal published	COM(2001)0576 	Summary
25/10/2001	Committee referral announced in Parliament, 1st reading		
21/02/2002	Vote in committee, 1st reading		Summary

21/02/2002	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading	A5-0049/2002	
13/03/2002	Debate in Parliament		
14/03/2002	Decision by Parliament, 1st reading	T5-0115/2002	Summary
25/04/2002	Act adopted by Council after Parliament's 1st reading		
13/05/2002	Final act signed		
13/05/2002	End of procedure in Parliament		
06/06/2002	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2001/0243(COD)
Procedure type	COD - Ordinary legislative procedure (ex-codecision procedure)
Procedure subtype	Legislation
Legislative instrument	Regulation
Amendments and repeals	Amending Regulation (EC) No 1659/98 1995/0159(SYN)
Legal basis	EC Treaty (after Amsterdam) EC 179-p1
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed

Documentation gateway				
European Parliament				
Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading		A5-0049/2002	21/02/2002	
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading		T5-0115/2002 OJ C 047 27.02.2003, p. 0417-0550 E	14/03/2002	Summary
European Commission				
Document type	Reference	Date	Summary	
Legislative proposal	COM(2001)0576  OJ C 051 26.02.2002, p. 0316 E	23/10/2001	Summary	
Follow-up document	COM(2003)0412 	11/07/2003	Summary	

Additional information		
Source	Document	Date
European Commission	EUR-Lex	

Final act

Regulation 2002/0955
OJ L 148 06.06.2002, p. 0001

[Summary](#)

Decentralised development cooperation: extension until 31 December 2003

2001/0243(COD) - 13/05/2002 - Final act

OBJECTIVE: to extend Regulation No 1659/98/EC on decentralised cooperation for a further two years. **COMMUNITY MEASURE:** Regulation No 955/2002/EC by the European Parliament and the Council, extending and amending Council Regulation No 1659/98/EC on decentralised cooperation. **CONTENT:** The purpose of this regulation is to extend Council Regulation No 1659/98/EC on decentralised cooperation to 31 December 2003 and to adapt the total appropriation accordingly, the initial programme being applicable until 31 December 2001. This extension is designed to allow the Commission time to propose a new programme moving the decentralised cooperation on from an experimental phase to official cooperation and to carry out all the assessments of the activities financed by the Community under this heading. The financial reference amount for Regulation No 1659/98/EC is increased from EUR 18 million to EUR 24 million for the extended period 1999 to 2003. The amended regulation contains a series of new provisions relating to comitology, with a view to complying with the new rules in force in that area (Council Decision No 1999/468/EC) and details of the beneficiaries of decentralised cooperation (including local authorities, NGOs, cultural and research organisations and churches). The amended regulation also provides for the Commission to review its strategic guidelines and decentralised cooperation priorities every two years and to inform the European Parliament accordingly. In the annual report that the Commission is required to submit to Parliament and the Council, the Commission will, in addition, have to present a summary of the operations financed under the regulation and details of the decentralised cooperation actors with whom contracts have been concluded. An overall assessment is also expected eight months before the expiry of the present regulation, accompanied by suggestions for further decentralised cooperation and the involvement of civil society. The aid must be consistent with and complementary to the aid provided under other Community development cooperation instruments. **ENTRY INTO FORCE:** 9 June 2002. It should be noted that this regulation has been adopted after a single reading by the European Parliament, in accordance with Article 251 of the TEU, the Council having incorporated all the amendments by the EP at first reading.

Decentralised development cooperation: extension until 31 December 2003

2001/0243(COD) - 11/07/2003 - Follow-up document

PURPOSE : to present an assessment of the operations financed by the Community under the Regulation on decentralised cooperation **CONTENT :** this assessment was ordered by the Commission assessment at the beginning of 2003 in order both to fulfil its obligations under Regulation 1659/98/EC on decentralised cooperation and also to obtain information, in the form of recommendations based on the instrument's performance since the 2001 evaluation, to help it decide whether to extend the application of the budget line's (B7-6002) legal basis. The aim of this assessment was to : - assess the tool's relevance, value added, consistency with other instruments and the results obtained from its implementation in terms of efficiency, impact and viability; - make practical suggestions to render the instrument more operational in the future. The report shows that the overall conclusions of the assessment concern the consistency, relevance, value added, results and management of the decentralised cooperation line. Though decentralised cooperation is judged relevant, it appears to lack consistency because it is not sufficiently coordinated with other financial instruments pursuing similar goals and because a lack of resources prevents it achieving the desired impact. As for value added, the assessment sees it primarily in the instrument's flexibility, especially the possibility for actors from the South to conclude contracts directly, and the in-house dialogue at the Commission, which led, among other things, to the inclusion of civil society in the Cotonou Agreement. The line's management is considered to be too centralised in view of the devolution process under way and too heavily focused on contractual and budgetary considerations. This is at the expense of the technical monitoring and evaluation stages, which are seriously underdeveloped. There is, moreover, a failure to capitalise on experience, identify good practice and disseminate results, even though these figure among the obligations listed in the operational guide. The results are generally achieved in terms of activities, but they remain of limited viability, even though they are institutionalised. They show greater progress in the working of institutions than in participation in political dialogue. The assessment's recommendations concern improving the consistency and quality of proposals and results, the specific nature of the line and cost-effectiveness. The assessment proposes that the instrument's consistency and relevance be improved by having the new Regulation target the line more precisely. Two targeting options are put forward, each with its pros and cons: - broad geographic targeting (with three sub-options: by region, regional grouping or country category; - even tighter geographic targeting, confining the use of all the line's resources to the exclusive benefit of the ACP countries, where, the assessment suggests, there are currently neither decentralised cooperation programmes based on the "process approach" in the NIPs/RIPs, though the Cotonou Agreement provides for them, nor regional programmes comparable to the MEDA, Tacis and ALA horizontal programmes. As regards the quality of proposals and results, the assessment proposes a number of options: - The use of networks could be stepped up to increase the transfer of know-how from North to South by promoting one-to-one relations. - Technical assistance networks could be set up for actors in the South. - Monitoring and evaluation could be stepped up to help increase knowledge of the impact of operations and to provide a sounder basis for deciding whether to extend them. - The website's content could be improved by creating links to other decentralised cooperation partners (Member States, international organisations, etc.). To enhance the line's specific nature, it is suggested that: - the decentralised cooperation line be distinguished from the NGO cofinancing line; - the participation of all potential actors, and in particular those from the South, be fostered; - the arrangements for the participation of NGOs from the North be changed by focusing on their role as an interface with their counterparts in the South, offering them experience and know-how. In order to improve cost-effectiveness, it is proposed that the line's financial resources be increased, which will also enhance the impact of operations. The division of tasks between Commission

Headquarters and the delegations should also be improved. Lastly, it is suggested that the minimum size of projects be reduced in certain instances from EUR 200 000 today to EUR 15 000-30 000. Of the options for the geographical focus, the one concerning countries with characteristics in common would seem to be the most appropriate both in political terms and from the standpoint of the practical implementation of the decentralised cooperation instrument. It is reflected in the draft Regulation's proposal that support be focused on "difficult partnerships", in which official aid is unable to make any significant contribution to participatory development. The assessment report cites the advantages of targeting aid by country category as being: consistency with NIPs and the specific characteristics of decentralised cooperation in the country, the major impact achieved when the number of countries is limited, the possibility of targeting countries with similar problems and the possibility of achieving complementarity with other decentralised cooperation instruments in the country. Among the potential disadvantages or difficulties of this approach, the assessment report cites the possible scattering of funds across a wide area, the difficulty of carrying out network-style horizontal or regional projects and, lastly, the fact that setting priorities might prove complex. There should also be a special emphasis on the need for the decentralised cooperation instrument to make a significant contribution to diversifying the type of actors involved in activities under the heading to ensure that all groupings of civil society are represented, with a special emphasis on support for actors in the partner countries. Along the same lines, consideration should be given to reducing the eligibility threshold for Community funding (currently fixed at EUR 200 000) to enable partners from the South working in countries experiencing political, economic and social difficulties to submit admissible proposals. Last but not least, calls for proposals should also emphasise the need for a certain degree of consistency between the projects submitted and Community programmes under way or planned in the countries concerned and, in so far as is possible, with national and local development strategies. Such consistency would help ensure the long-term viability of operations and enhance their visibility.

Decentralised development cooperation: extension until 31 December 2003

2001/0243(COD) - 23/10/2001 - Legislative proposal

PURPOSE : to extend and amend Council Regulation 1659/98/EC on decentralised cooperation. CONTENT : decentralised cooperation is at a watershed. It is time to move from an experimental phase to one of consolidation of the concept on a larger scale in the context of official cooperation. Nevertheless, it is important that a budget instrument be maintained, coordinated with the EDF and other instruments of cooperation with the developing countries acting principally as a catalyst for the change of scale and for cases where official cooperation is still unable to contribute significantly to the intended participatory development. This approach is in line with the recommendations made in the external evaluation of budgetline B7-6430 (now B7-6002) carried out in 2000. With a view to greater consistency between the decentralised cooperation (B7-6002) and NGO co-financing (B7-6000) budgetlines, it is also proposed to look at the possibility of preparing a single legal basis on the empowering of civil society and the other decentralised local actors concerned in the developing countries for both budget lines concerned. The initial concern is to ensure the continuity of the present budget instrument, while allowing the necessary time for thorough discussion together with all the partners concerned, the preparation and implementation of the procedure for adopting a new regulation and the introduction of a budget instrument adapted to the new strategic guidelines. Regulation 1659/98/EC which establishes the implementing procedures of the measures concerned, is due to expire on 31 December 2001. Its period of validity should now be extended for an additional two years, i.e. up to 31 December 2003. The financial reference amount will have to be adjusted. In the current Regulation, the figure was EUR 18 million. The attached proposal specifies a reference amount of EUR 24 million for the longer period of 1999 to 2003. That amount is justified on the one hand by the commitment rate achieved thus far, i.e. EUR 10.467 million (appropriations made available by the budgetary authority), on the other hand by the amount of EUR 7 million proposed under the 2002 PDB and a similar amount anticipated for 2003. The planned increase for 2002 and 2003 is warranted by the scale of the financing needs observed over the recent years, which have far exceeded the sums provided by the budget authority.

Decentralised development cooperation: extension until 31 December 2003

2001/0243(COD) - 14/03/2002 - Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading

The European Parliament adopted a resolution drafted by Maria CARRILHO (PES, Portugal) on decentralised cooperation. (Please refer to the document dated 21/02/02). The cooperation partners are now defined as: local authorities, NGOs, organisations of indigenous peoples, local traders' associations and local citizens' groups, cooperatives, trade unions, women's and youth organisations, teaching, cultural and research organisations, churches, and any non-governmental associations likely to contribute to development.