Basic information

2002/0210(CNS) CNS - Consultation procedure Regulation	Procedure completed
International Fund for Ireland: continuation of the Community financial contributions for 2003-2004 **Subject** 6.10.05 Peace preservation, humanitarian and rescue tasks, crisis management **Geographical area** Ireland	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
RETT Regional Policy, Transport and Tourism	CAVERI Luciano (ELDR)	10/09/2002

Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
BUDG Budgets	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	12/09/2002

Council of the European Union

Council configuration	Meetings	Date
General Affairs	2474	2002-12-10

European Commission

Commission DG	Commissioner
Regional and Urban Policy	

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
22/08/2002	Legislative proposal published	COM(2002)0472	Summary
23/09/2002	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
08/10/2002	Vote in committee		Summary
08/10/2002	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading	A5-0335/2002	

20/11/2002	Decision by Parliament	T5-0538/2002	Summary
10/12/2002	Act adopted by Council after consultation of Parliament		
10/12/2002	End of procedure in Parliament		
17/12/2002	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2002/0210(CNS)
Procedure type	CNS - Consultation procedure
Procedure subtype	Legislation
Legislative instrument	Regulation
Legal basis	EC Treaty (after Amsterdam) EC 308 Rules of Procedure EP 52-p1
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	RETT/5/16606

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading		A5-0335/2002	08/10/2002	
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading		T5-0538/2002 OJ C 025 29.01.2004, p. 0023-0145 E	20/11/2002	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Legislative proposal	COM(2002)0472 OJ C 331 31.12.2002, p. 0177 E	22/08/2002	Summary
Follow-up document	COM(2004)0633	13/10/2004	Summary

Additional information

Source	Document	Date
European Commission	EUR-Lex	

Final act

Regulation 2002/2236
OJ L 341 17.12.2002, p. 0006-0008

International Fund for Ireland: continuation of the Community financial contributions for 2003-2004

2002/0210(CNS) - 22/08/2002 - Legislative proposal

PURPOSE : to present a proposal for a Council Regulation on the Community financial contributions to the International Fund for Ireland. CONTENT : to recall, the International Fund for Ireland (IFI) was established in 1986 in order to contribute to the implementation of Article 10(a) of the Anglo-Irish Agreement of 15 November 1985 which provides that the two governments shall co-operate to promote the economic and social development of those areas of both parts of Ireland which have suffered most severely from the consequences of the instability of recent years, and shall consider the possibility of securing international support for this work. The objectives of the IFI are to promote economic and social advance and to encourage contact, dialogue and reconciliation between nationalists and unionists throughout Ireland. The political background of the region has evolved over the years: in 1994, the main paramilitary groups announced cease-fires; in April 1998, the Belfast ("Good Friday") Agreement set a political settlement for a peace process, including the devolution of powers to a Northern Ireland Assembly and Executive Committee, which were set up at the end of 1999. However, violence and division between the main communities remain high and various suspensions of the devolved institutions have illustrated the threats and uncertainties surrounding the peace process in the region. Following early contributions from the United States and other countries, the European Community, recognising that the objectives of the IFI were a reflection of those pursued by itself, wished to give practical support to the initiative. It began contributing to the IFI in 1989. EC funding now represents 34 % of annual contributions to the IFI and 38 % of cumulative contributions to date. The Commission has been represented by an observer at all IFI Board meetings since the beginning of 1989. In this context, economic and social development in support of peace and reconciliation at grassroots level is a long term process. As an instrument towards this goal, the IFI complements the action carried out by the EU Programmes for Peace and Reconciliation in Northern Ireland and the Border Region of Ireland (PEACE I 1995-1999, and PEACE II 2000-2004). In accordance with the current round of contributions, the European Commission has recently submitted an assessment of the IFI's activities to the Budgetary Authority. This acknowledges the IFI's very valuable and positive actions for peace and reconciliation in the region, and thereby the fulfilment of its objectives. The report concluded that the Commission believes that funding after 2002 should be provided on the basis of the observations made in this report, which could be reflected either in the future Council Regulation on the EC contribution to the IFI, or through other appropriate means of cooperation between the Commission and the IFI. In light of the above assessment, it is proposed that the Commission adopts the following proposal for a Council Regulation on the EC contributions to the IFI which will : - continue the EU contributions of EUR 15 million per year to the IFI, for a further period of 2 years. The proposed new period will therefore end in 2004, which would coincide with the end ofthe PEACE II Programme. - take account of the observations made in the Commission report, in particular those reinforcing synergy of objectives and co-ordination with Structural Funds interventions, in particular with the PEACE Programme.

International Fund for Ireland: continuation of the Community financial contributions for 2003-2004

2002/0210(CNS) - 10/12/2002 - Final act

PURPOSE : to adopt a the Council Regulation on the Community financial contributions to the International Fund for Ireland. COMMUNITY MEASURE : Council Regulation 2236/2002/EC concerning the Community financial contributions to the International Fund for Ireland 2003-2004. CONTENT : subject to the annual budget procedure and in accordance with the Interinstitutional Agreement of 6 May 1999 between the European Parliament, the Council and the commission in budgetary discipline and improvement of the budgetary procedure, an annual contribution of EUR 15 million shall be made to the Fund for each of the years 2003 and 2004 amounting to a total contribution of EUR 30 million. The contribution shall be used by the Fund in accordance with the Agreement under which it was established, priority shall be given to projects of a cross-border or cross Community nature, in such a way as to complement the activities financed by the Community Structural Funds and especially the activities of the PEACE Programme. It shall be used in such a way as to bring about sustainable economic and social improvement in the areas concerned. It shall not be used as a substitute for other public and private expenditure. The Commission shall represent the Community as an observer at the meetings of the Board. The Fund shall be represented as an observer at the Monitoring Committee meetings of the PEACE programme and of other Community Structural Funds interventions, as appropriate. The Commission shall foster coordination at all levels between the Funds's Board and agents, and the managing bodies set up under the Community Structural Funds intervention concerned, in particular under the PEACE programme. The Commission shall in cooperation with the Board determine appropriate publicity and information procedure sin order to publicise the Community's contribution to the projects financed by the Fund. By 31 March 2004 at the latest, the Commission shall submit a report to the budgetary authority, assessing the results of the activities of the Fund and the need for continuing contributions beyond 2004, taking into account developments in the peace process in Northern Ireland. That report shall incorporate, inter alia, the following: - a survey of the Fund's activities; - a list of projects which have received aid; - an assessment of the nature and impact of the Fund's activities, notably in relation to its objectives; - an assessment of action taken by the Fund as regards cooperation and coordination with Community Structural Funds; - an annex setting out the results of the verifications and controls carried out by the Commission. The Commission shall administer the contributions. Subject to an assessment of the Fund's financial needs, the annual contribution shall normally be paid in instalments as follows: - a first advance payment of 40% shall be made after the Commission has received an undertaking, signed by the Chairman of the Board, to the effect that the Fund will comply with the conditions attaching, in accordance with this Regulation, to thegrant of the contribution; - a second advance payment of 40% shall be made six months later; - a final payment of 20% shall be made after the Commission has received and accepted the Fund's annual activity report and audited accounts for the year in question. If the assessment referred to in the second subparagraph leads to the conclusion that, at the material date, the Fund's financial needs do not justify payment of one of those instalments, the payment concerned

shall be suspended until such time as the Commission concludes, on the basis of new information provided by the Fund, that it is justified. The contribution shall be subject to the condition that, in the case of an operation which receives or is due to receive financial assistance under a Community Structural Funds intervention, a contribution from the Fund may be allocated to that operation only if the sum arrived at when the figure representing 40% of the amount of the Fund's contribution is added to the figure representing the amount of assistance from the Community Structural Funds does not exceed 75% of the operation's total eligible costs. ENTRY INTO FORCE : 1 January 2003. It shall expire on 31 December 2004.

International Fund for Ireland: continuation of the Community financial contributions for 2003-2004

2002/0210(CNS) - 20/11/2002 - Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading

The European Parliament adopted a resolution drafted by Luciano CAVERI (ELDR, Italy) and approved the Commission's proposal.

International Fund for Ireland: continuation of the Community financial contributions for 2003-2004

2002/0210(CNS) - 13/10/2004 - Follow-up document

The EU's long standing support for the peace process in Northern Ireland has been best exemplified by its commitment to the International Fund for Ireland (IFI) since 1989 and the PEACE Programme since 1995. This commitment recognises the long-term nature of the peace process' objectives, which have been widely supported over the years by the European Parliament, Council and Commission.

Council Regulation 2236/2002/ECprovides the current legal basis for the Community contributions for 2003 and 2004. Article 6 of that Regulation sets out the necessary elements for an assessment of the need for support beyond 2004, and its submission to the EC Budgetary Authority. This report and its annexes build on the 2001 Report on the International Fund for Ireland, and constitute the assessment required.

Since the 2001 Report, devolution has been suspended in Northern Ireland. The political and social situation of the region remains fragile and the continuing level of violence and division calls on the EU to sustain its efforts to promote peace and reconciliation in this part of the European Union.

Past European Commission reports have acknowledged the very positive contribution of the IFI's activities to peace and reconciliation in Northern Ireland and the Border Region of Ireland thereby fulfilling its objectives, namely to promote economic and social advance, and to encourage contact, dialogue and reconciliation between nationalists and unionists throughout Ireland.

The current round of EC Structural Funds Programmes (in particular the PEACE Programme), which are the major instruments to promote economic and social progress in the region, present new opportunities for the IFI. The priorities set by both IFI and EC Programmes complement each other. In particular, while the IFI targets mainly economically disadvantaged areas, the PEACE Programme targets a list of areas, groups and sectors identified as "most affected by the conflict". Similarly, the cross-community and/or cross-border dimension could become explicit selection criteria for all IFI programmes, as they now are for all PEACE priorities.

The ongoing strategic review of the IFI activities augurs well for a "repositioning" in favour of community-based activities with a strong reconciliation dimension. Although the methods and the financial scale of the IFI and EC Programmes remain quite different, it is expected that the ongoing strategic review will allow the IFI, together with its donors, to make progress along these lines.

The UK and Irish Prime Ministers requested an extension of the EC contributions to the IFI and a continuation of the PEACE Programme for two years (2005-2006). As reinforcing the solidarity between Member States and between their peoples is a core EU objective, it is important for the EU to remain committed to these objectives, alongside other international donors, and to renew its contribution to the IFI. In this context, the Commission believes that funding after 2004 should continue to be provided on the basis of the observations made in this report, which could be reflected either in the future Council Regulation on the EC contribution to the IFI, or through other appropriate means of co-operation between the Commission and the IFI.