Basic information

2002/0171(CNS) CNS - Consultation procedure Regulation	Procedure completed
European Training Foundation: budget and finances, access to documents (amend. Regulation (EEC) No 1360/90) Repealed by 2007/0163(COD) **Subject** 1.20.05 Public access to information and documents, administrative practice 8.40.08 Agencies and bodies of the EU 8.70.02 Financial regulations	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
BUDG Budgets	DELL'ALBA Gianfranco (NI)	28/08/2002

Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
CONT Budgetary Control	VAN HULTEN Michiel (PSE)	02/09/2002
LIBE Citizens' Freedoms and Rights, Justice and Home Affairs	HERNÁNDEZ MOLLAR Jorge Salvador (PPE-DE)	12/09/2002
AFCO Constitutional Affairs	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	

Council of the European Union

Council configuration	Meetings	Date
Agriculture and Fisheries	2516	2003-06-18

European Commission

Commission DG	Commissioner
Budget	

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary

17/07/2002	Legislative proposal published	COM(2002)0406	Summary
23/09/2002	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
02/10/2002	Vote in committee		
02/10/2002	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading	A5-0336/2002	
22/10/2002	Decision by Parliament	T5-0480/2002	Summary
27/03/2003	Decision by Parliament	T5-0111/2003	Summary
18/06/2003	Act adopted by Council after consultation of Parliament		
18/06/2003	End of procedure in Parliament		
29/09/2003	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2002/0171(CNS)
Procedure type	CNS - Consultation procedure
Procedure subtype	Legislation
Legislative instrument	Regulation
Amendments and repeals	Repealed by 2007/0163(COD)
Legal basis	EC Treaty (after Amsterdam) EC 308
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		A5-0336/2002	02/10/2002	
Text adopted by Parliament, partial vote at 1st reading /single reading		T5-0480/2002 OJ C 300 11.12.2003, p. 0022-0093 E	22/10/2002	Summary
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading		T5-0111/2003 OJ C 062 11.03.2004, p. 0018-0134 E	27/03/2003	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Legislative proposal	COM(2002)0406	17/07/2002	Summary
Follow-up document	COM(2006)0832	19/12/2006	Summary

Additional information		
Source	**Document**	**Date**
European Commission	EUR-Lex	

Final act	
Regulation 2003/1648 OJ L 245 29.09.2003, p. 0022-0024	Summary

European Training Foundation: budget and finances, access to documents (amend. Regulation (EEC) No 1360/90)

2002/0171(CNS) - 18/06/2003 - Final act

PURPOSE : to bring the constituent instruments of the European Communities decentralised bodies into line with the New Financial Regulation of June 2002 as well as with the Regulation relating to the access to public documents of May 2001. LEGISLATIVE ACT : Council Regulation 1648/2003 /EC amending Regulation 1360/90/EEC establishing a European Training Foundation. CONTENT : this Regulation aims to amend Regulation 1360/90 /EC as regards the budgetary and financial rules applicable to the Foundation, in order to bring it into line with the new general Financial Regulation that entered into force on 1 January 2003, and also as regards access to its documents, with a view to implementing within the Foundation Regulation 1049/2001/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 May 2001 regarding access to European Parliament, Council and Commission documents. ENTRY INTO FORCE : 01/10/2003.

European Training Foundation: budget and finances, access to documents (amend. Regulation (EEC) No 1360/90)

2002/0171(CNS) - 27/03/2003 - Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading

The European Parliament adopted a resolution approving the Commission's proposal as amended during the sitting of 22/10/02. (Please refer to the document of that date).

European Training Foundation: budget and finances, access to documents (amend. Regulation (EEC) No 1360/90)

2002/0171(CNS) - 22/10/2002 - Text adopted by Parliament, partial vote at 1st reading/single reading

By adopting the report by Mr Gianfranco DELL'ALBA (Ind, It), the European Parliament approved the proposal subject to amendments adopted by the committee responsible (please refer to the previous text). The vote on the draft legislative resolution was postponed pursuant to Rule 69.

European Training Foundation: budget and finances, access to documents (amend. Regulation (EEC) No 1360/90)

2002/0171(CNS) - 17/07/2002 - Legislative proposal

PURPOSE : to present a proposal for amendment of the constituent acts of Community bodies following the adoption of the new financial regulation. CONTENT : the new Financial Regulation applicable to the general budget of the EC will enter into force on 1 January 2003 (see CNS/2000/0203). It presents a new approach concerning the budgetary and financial status of the decentralised Community Agencies. The most important novelties concerning Community Agencies are as follows: - Article 185: the Commission adopts a framework Financial Regulation applicable to the bodies set up by the Communities, having legal personality and which actually receive grants from the general budget (see CNS/2002/0902). The financial rules of these bodies may not depart from the framework Regulation unless specifically required for their operation and with the Commission's prior consent; discharge for the implementation of the budgets of the bodies is to be given by the European Parliament, acting on a recommendation by the Council; the Commission's internal auditor exercises the same powers over these bodies as over Commission departments; the above-mentioned bodies must apply the accounting rules established by the Commission's accounting officer so that their accounts can be consolidated with the Commission's accounts; - Article 46(3)(d) : the establishment plans of the bodies are to be decided by the general budgetary authority. These novelties require

corresponding amendments to the legal acts establishing the Agencies concerned in order to implement the new system. These changes are the subject of the present proposals. In these proposals the Commission also tackles two further questions concerning the decentralised Community bodies. The first is connected with the current general reform process, viz. the question of transparency and public access to documents. The second question concerns the procedure for appointing the Directors of the Community bodies. Taking into account the above-mentioned development of the general recasting process, it is assumed that the new arrangements (Articles 185 and 46(3)(d)) will apply to the thirteen existing Community Agencies, namely: - the European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training (Thessaloniki); - the European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions (Dublin); - the European Environment Agency (Copenhagen); _ the European Training Foundation (Turin); _ the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (Lisbon); - the European Agency for the Evaluation of Medicinal Products (London); _ the European Agency for Safety and Health at Work (Bilbao); _ the Translation Centre for the Bodies of the EU (Luxembourg); _ the European Monitoring Centre on Racism and Xenophobia (Vienna); _ the European Agency for Reconstruction (Thessaloniki); _ the European Food Safety Authority; _ the European Aviation Safety Agency; _ the European Maritime Safety Agency; as well as to one body established under the Third Pillar, buttreated as a traditional Community body in budgetary and financial terms, Eurojust. There are two decentralised Community bodies which do not receive grants from the general budget, namely the Office for Harmonisation in the Internal Market (Alicante) and the Community Plant Variety Office (Angers). They therefore do not fall within the definition of Article 185. However, they are affected by the proposals to bring their internal control mechanisms into line with the new Financial Regulation.

European Training Foundation: budget and finances, access to documents (amend. Regulation (EEC) No 1360/90)

2002/0171(CNS) - 19/12/2006 - Follow-up document

This report is presented under Article 17 of the Council Regulation establishing the European Training Foundation (“the ETF”), and aims to provide an overview of experience acquired in the work of the ETF for the period 2002-2005. It takes into account changes in the geographical coverage, operating environment and role of the ETF since 2000, and draws on the findings and recommendations of the independent evaluator's report provided by ITAD, the external contractor. The report also takes into consideration the evolution of EU policy towards third countries, and expected changes in EU policy instruments after 2006. The current external assistance programmes (Phare, Tacis, Meda and Cards), which define the scope of the ETF’s activities, will be replaced in 2007 by three new external assistance instruments, the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI), the Instrument for Pre–accession Assistance (IPA) and the Development Cooperation Instrument (DCI). These changes require an adaptation of the ETF’s founding regulation. The findings from the external evaluation process will inform the proposed amendment of the Council Regulation on the ETF. It is recalled that the Agency's overall objective is to contribute to the development of vocational training systems in the four regions within its remit: the Caucuses and Central Asia, the acceding and candidate countries, the potential candidate countries, and the southern and eastern Mediterranean. Beneficiary countries are known as "partner countries".

Current priorities and activities: on an operational level, the ETF uses three main instruments: support to EC programmes and dissemination of EU policies; capacity building, information and analysis for the partner countries; innovation, learning and development, including pilot projects which analyse lessons learned during the application of reform strategies by partner countries.

Main recommendations of the external evaluation:

- the report argued for some increased flexibility in **the ETF’s geographical remit**. This would allow ETF’s particular expertise to be used by the Community in countries at comparable stages of development and facing similar socio-economic challenges. The Commission shares to a large extent the analysis and recommendations of the evaluators, in particular on the thematic remit of the agency. The growing importance of the lifelong learning approach to education and training in the policies and instruments of the EU calls for a wider thematic remit of the ETF. The Commission proposes to address this issue in the upcoming revision of the ETF Regulation by broadening its mandate;

- the Commission considers that the ETF, which has limited resources, should maintain its geographical focus. It is therefore proposed that the ETF’s primary scope be defined by reference to the IPA and to the ENPI. In order to ensure the possibility of using the ETF’s expertise in areas falling outside its primary geographical scope, such as the Central Asian countries, it is proposed that a relevant ad hoc decision be taken by the ETF Governing Board on proposal from the Commission;

- a key issue arising from the report is to ensure a close link between ETF pilot actions and larger scale EC funded actions, or actions which could be funded by other donors;

- the evaluation report paid attention to the need to raise the ETF's capacity to monitor its activities at project and country level. In this respect, the report recognised that the monitoring of ETF achievements at country level is a complex area. The ETF’s work is more about facilitating the flow of information rather than about producing products or outputs. The main challenge for the ETF is to monitor not simply the production of a particular document, but to measure the impact produced on national plans and reform actions. The evaluation concluded that the ETF's current monitoring system, which is designed to track performance at the level of activities and individual projects, did not adequately measure the quality of the ETF's services/products or the ETF's impact on VET reform at country level. The Commission asks the ETF to develop a relevant monitoring system;

- with regard to governance structures, the evaluators note particularly that,although the **Governing Board** does fulfil its primary role, there are questions regarding its effective role in strategic decision making. On the Advisory Forum, the report felt that the latter falls short of its purpose of providing advice to the Governing Body on the future Work Programme;

- the communication and dissemination system had greatly improved since the last evaluation. The report showed that ETF’s communications initiatives, and in particular its website, workshops and exchange visits, newsletter printed publications (80%) were very effective.

Conclusion: the Commission shares the evaluator's overall positive assessment of the efficiency and effectiveness of the ETF's work and considers that the Agency has made a valuable contribution to the Community's activities in the field of vocational education and training and labour market reform in the partner regions. The ETF has to look at its planning cycle. In particular, it is asked to analyse how the links between 'the mid-term priorities – the annual work programme – the country plans – the annual activity report' can be reinforced and be made more explicit. Relevant measurable indicators should be defined in order to facilitate the follow-up of the set objectives and goals and to ease the assessment of the ETF's impact in its areas of intervention. New approaches should be explored to improve the development and appropriate dissemination of relevant VET material, and to strengthen the ETF's capacity to communicate its achievements and results.

The introduction of the new external aid instruments, the IPA and the ENPI, marks a significant step towards a policy-driven rather than programme-driven approach to external assistance in a sector-wide perspective. Both instruments are designed to provide support towards the achievement by partner countries of home-grown reforms in the sectors concerned. The objectives are defined by a process of dialogue with partner country governments and support is provided to them for the implementation of reform processes designed and managed by them.

In this new context, the ETF will increasingly be required to provide the Commission with information and analysis at the policy development and programming phase. The other focus of attention has to be in helping partner countries to build the capacity to define and implement indigenous reform strategies, and in promoting networking and exchange of experience and good practice between the EU and the partner countries and among partner countries themselves.

The ETF should adapt its organisation and its way of working to this new environment. The agency must in coordination with the Governing Board and the Commission establish clear priorities and concentrate its available resources on its core activities.

For both the Commission and the ETF, increased awareness and monitoring of the type of services both offered and needed will be required in order to ensure that the activities of the Agency continue to be useful and relevant. This implies that the Commission should keep the ETF fully informed on new or revised priorities or strategies. Similarly, the ETF should keep Commission services, in the field and at headquarters, fully informed of its operations, initiatives and contacts with relevant stakeholders in partner countries, other international donors and agencies in order to ensure coherence and visibility of EC action. This demands a renewed commitment from both sides to strong communication and exchange.

The ETF's management must continue its effort to establish a clear vision within the Agency of its position and role as a European centre of expertise in the new institutional landscape. Overall, the Commission believes that the external evaluation report provides useful lessons and recommendations for the development of the ETF as a centre of expertise. The Commission invites the ETF to submit a draft Action Plan to the Governing Board, outlining its analysis and proposed actions on all recommendations made by the evaluator and by the Commission in this report.

The Commission proposal for a revised regulation of ETF will also provide the opportunity for discussion and exchange with the European Parliament and the Council on the future role of the ETF, its objectives and priorities, and its governance structure.