Basic information

2003/0115(COD) COD - Ordinary legislative procedure (ex-codecision procedure) Decision	Procedure completed
Culture: grants to bodies active at European level, 2004-2006 action programme **Subject** 4.45.02 Cultural programmes and actions, assistance 8.70.02 Financial regulations	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
CULT Culture, Youth, Education, Media and Sport	IIVARI Ulpu (PSE)	08/07/2003

Former committee responsible	Former rapporteur	Appointed
CULT Culture, Youth, Education, Media and Sport	IIVARI Ulpu (PSE)	08/07/2003

Former committee for opinion	Former rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
BUDG Budgets (Associated committee)	DÜHRKOP DÜHRKOP Bárbara (PSE)	10/07/2003
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)	2574	2004-03-30
Environment	2556	2003-12-22
Education, Youth, Culture and Sport	2545	2003-11-24

European Commission

Commission DG	Commissioner
Education, Youth, Sport and Culture	

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
27/05/2003	Legislative proposal published	COM(2003)0275	Summary
27/05/2003	Additional information		Summary
30/06/2003	Committee referral announced in Parliament, 1st reading		
20/10/2003	Vote in committee, 1st reading		Summary
20/10/2003	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading	A5-0359/2003	
05/11/2003	Debate in Parliament		
06/11/2003	Decision by Parliament, 1st reading	T5-0476/2003	Summary
22/12/2003	Council position published	15331/1/2003	Summary
15/01/2004	Committee referral announced in Parliament, 2nd reading		
19/02/2004	Vote in committee, 2nd reading		Summary
19/02/2004	Committee recommendation tabled for plenary, 2nd reading	A5-0077/2004	
09/03/2004	Debate in Parliament		
10/03/2004	Decision by Parliament, 2nd reading	T5-0163/2004	Summary
10/03/2004	Results of vote in Parliament		
30/03/2004	Act approved by Council, 2nd reading		
21/04/2004	Final act signed		
21/04/2004	End of procedure in Parliament		
30/04/2004	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2003/0115(COD)
Procedure type	COD - Ordinary legislative procedure (ex-codecision procedure)
Procedure subtype	Legislation
Legislative instrument	Decision
Legal basis	EC Treaty (after Amsterdam) EC 151-p5 Rules of Procedure EP 57_o
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	CULT/5/20395

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading		A5-0359/2003	20/10/2003	

Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading		T5-0476/2003 OJ C 083 02.04.2004, p. 0018-0142 E	06/11/2003	Summary
Committee recommendation tabled for plenary, 2nd reading		A5-0077/2004	19/02/2004	
Text adopted by Parliament, 2nd reading		T5-0163/2004 OJ C 102 28.04.2004, p. 0519-0591 E	10/03/2004	Summary

Council of the EU

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Council statement on its position	15979/2003	17/12/2003	
Council position	15331/1/2003 OJ C 072 23.03.2004, p. 0010-0018 E	22/12/2003	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Legislative proposal	COM(2003)0275	27/05/2003	Summary
Commission communication on Council's position	COM(2004)0003	09/01/2004	Summary
Commission opinion on Parliament's position at 2nd reading	COM(2004)0211	23/03/2004	Summary
Follow-up document	COM(2008)0234	05/05/2008	Summary

Additional information

Source	Document	Date
European Commission	EUR-Lex	

Final act

Decision 2004/0792
OJ L 138 30.04.2004, p. 0040-0049 Summary

Culture: grants to bodies active at European level, 2004-2006 action programme

2003/0115(COD) - 21/04/2004 - Final act

PURPOSE : to establish a Community action programme to promote bodies active at European level in the field of culture. LEGISLATIVE ACT : Decision 792/2004/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a Community action programme to promote bodies active at European level in the field of culture. CONTENT : based on Article 151 of the EC Treaty, this Decision is intended, following the implementation of the new Financial Regulation applicable to the budget of the European Communities, to establish a basic act for awarding grants to promote organisations active at European level and support specific activities in the area of culture. This programme will cover certain former budget lines in Part A, Chapter 30 of the budget, particularly those aimed at supporting the European Bureau for Lesser Used Languages and Mercator, protecting the sites of Nazi concentration camps as historical monuments, and awarding grants to organisations of European cultural interest. This Decision establishes a Community action programme to promote bodies active at European level in the field of culture. The general objective of the programme is to support the activities of these bodies. The programme covers the following activities: - the ongoing work programme of a body which pursues an aim of general European interest in the field of culture or an objective forming part of the European Union's policy in this area; - a specific action in this area. These activities must contribute, or be capable of contributing, to the development and implementation of Community cooperation policy and actions in the field of culture. The programme shall start on 1 January 2004 and shall end on 31 December 2006. To be eligible for a grant, a body must satisfy the requirements of Annex I and have the following characteristics: - it must be an independent and non-profit-making legal person primarily active in the field of culture, with an objective aimed at the public good; - it must have been legally established for more than two years and have had its annual statement of accounts for the two preceding years certified by a registered auditor; - its activities must be in accordance with the principles underlying Community action in the field of culture and take account of the priorities set out in Annex I. Operating grants for the ongoing work programme of a body pursuing an aim of general European interest in the field of culture or an objective forming part of the European Union's policy in this area shall be awarded in accordance with the overall criteria laid down in Annex I. Grants for actions specified in the programme shall be awarded in accordance with the overall criteria laid down in Annex I. Actions shall be selected by means of a call for proposals. Grants under the different actions of the programme shall be awarded in compliance with the provisions set out in the relevant part of Annex I. The financial framework for the implementation of the programme is hereby set at EUR 19 million. The annual appropriations shall be authorised by the budgetary authority within the limits of the financial perspective. The measures necessary for the implementation of this Decision relating to the matters referred to below shall be adopted in accordance with the management procedure referred to in Article 7(2): - the annual plan of work, including objectives, priorities, the selection criteria and procedures; - the financial support to be supplied by the Community (amounts, duration and recipients) in the areas covered by actions under part 2 and 3 of Annex I, and the general guidelines for implementing the programme; - the annual budget and the breakdown of funds among the different actions of the programme; - the arrangements for monitoring and evaluating the programme and for the dissemination and transfer of results; The measures necessary for the implementation of this Decision relating to all other matters shall be adopted in accordance with the advisory procedure referred to in Article 7(3). The Commission shall be assisted by the Committee provided for in Decision No 508/2000/EC. The Commission shall present to the European Parliament and the Council: - not later than 31 December 2005, a report on the implementation of the programme, on the achievement of its objectives and on a possible future programme to replace the present programme. The Commission shall moreover report to the European Parliament and Council on an annual basis on the implementation of the programme. - not later than 31 December 2007 a report on the achievement of the programme's objectives. This report shall be based, inter alia, on the outcome of the external evaluation and shall assess the results obtained by the beneficiaries of the programme, in particular as regards the effectiveness, efficiency and content of their actions, considered overall and individually, in achieving the objectives set out in Article 1 and in Annex I. ENTRY INTO FORCE : 1 May 2004.

Culture: grants to bodies active at European level, 2004-2006 action programme

2003/0115(COD) - 24/11/2003

The Council reached unanimous political agreement on the Decision establishing a Community action programme to promote bodies active at European level in the field of culture, on the basis of a Presidency compromise which the Commission endorsed. The Portuguese delegation stated that it intended to abstain at the later stage of formal adoption of a Council common position. The Commission submitted a statement on the application of Decision 1999/468/EC on the committee procedure. The Italian Presidency's compromise on which political agreement was reached entails the following changes to the original proposal: - regarding the selection of beneficiaries of grants, under the initial proposal the Commission did not have to publish calls for proposals when the budget heading explicitly named a beneficiary; -the same applied when the budget identified beneficiaries and the amounts allocated to each of them, if the total amount of the budget heading concerned was entirely pre-determined by the budgetary authority; -the draft budget for 2004 contains a list of organisations, as in previous years, and no calls for proposals have been prepared for 2004. The Presidency compromise thus aims to continue the practice of the budget heading and establishes an Annex II listing the organisations that may receive grants for 2004 only; the compromise also enables grants to be awarded on the basis of calls for proposals as from 2005 (see the annex to the conclusions of the conciliation meeting of 24.11.2003: doc 15231/1/2003 REV 1). - the proposed period of five years is reduced to three - 2004 /2006 - and the overall budget should increase from EUR 31 million as provided for in the Commission proposal, for five years (2004-2008), to EUR 19 million. - it should be noted that it is for the budgetary authority to fix this sum, which is currently under review; - the corollary of this reduction in the programming period and appropriations would be that the deadline for evaluation of activities, originally scheduled for 31 December 2007 at the latest, would be 31.12.2005; - a committee procedure has been established to apply this Decision using the Culture 2000 programme committee to manage funding. The Parliament and the Council called on the Commission to ensure that all the preliminary steps are taken in order for it to be in a position to implement the 2004 budget once the basic legal instruments have been adopted. In the event that they are adopted in the course of 2004, transitional clauses will need to be introduced in the final act in order to permit the conclusion of financial agreements covering the period preceding the adoption of the text.

Culture: grants to bodies active at European level, 2004-2006 action programme

2003/0115(COD) - 09/01/2004 - Commission communication on Council's position

The text of the common position is largely acceptable to the Commission, which in particular has accepted, in a spirit of compromise, the reduction in the duration of the programme as requested by Parliament and the Council. The Commission is also in a position to confirm the agreement reached at the budgetary conciliation on 24/11/03 on "earmarking", gradual reduction and clauses derogating from the Financial Regulation. The Commission nevertheless attaches importance to the coherent application of the criteria of Article 2 of the Council Decision on committee procedures (1999/468 /EC), the implications of which were highlighted in the judgement of the Court of 21 January. Bearing in mind the budget laid down in the proposal, the criteria of this Article would not be met. Without maintaining its reservation, the Commission therefore presented a unilateral declaration on this subject. Moreover, the Decision should reflect the agreement reached between the co-legislators on 24/11/03, namely: - extension of the system of designated beneficiaries until 2005; - given that the Decision will only be adopted during 2004, inclusion of two derogations from the Financial Regulation worded as follows: "For grants awarded in 2004, it will be possible for the period of eligibility of expenditure to start on 1 January 2004, provided that the expenditure does not precede the date on which the grant application was lodged or the date on which the beneficiary's budget year starts. During 2004, in the case of beneficiaries whose budgetary year starts before 1 March, an exception may be granted to the obligation to sign the grant agreement within the first four months of the start of the beneficiary's budget year, as referred to in Article 112, paragraph 2 of Council Regulation 1605 /2002/EC, Euratom on the Financial Regulation applicable to the general budget of the European Communities. In this case, the grant agreement should be signed by 30 June 2004 at the latest". The Commission notes the Council's decision to introduce in Article 6 an appeal to the Management Committee of the Culture 2000 programme relating to various measures for implementing the programme of Community action to promote organisations active at European level in the area of culture.

Culture: grants to bodies active at European level, 2004-2006 action programme

2003/0115(COD) - 10/03/2004 - Text adopted by Parliament, 2nd reading

The European Parliament adopted the resolution drafted by Ulpu IIVARI (PES, FIN) and approved the common position subject to a few amendments. (Please see the summary of 19/02/04.) The amendments aim to formalise the agreement reached with the Council during the budget conciliation process on the need for a two year transitional period for the advance earmarking of some of these grants, and to ensure the programme can operate this year, despite the delay in its entry into force, which was scheduled for 1 January 2004.

Culture: grants to bodies active at European level, 2004-2006 action programme

2003/0115(COD) - 22/12/2003 - Council position

The Council's common position, adopted unanimously, accepts 5 of the 15 amendments approved at first reading by the European Parliament. In particular, amendments incorporated in full in the Commission's amended proposal and in the common position concern the following : - provides for an annual report on the implementation of the programme by the Commission; - adds to the list of activities supported that of "cultural ambassador" promoting the common cultural heritage; - adds two evaluation criteria to grant applications (exchange of experiences in promoting cultural diversity, and mobility of arts and artists) and provides for the advertising of grants; - provides for the duration of the future programme to be three years (2004-2006) rather than five years. On the other hand, the Council failed to accept the following amendments: - provides for an amendment to the budget for a period of three years (2004-2006) to 22.764 million euro. - identifies two possibilities for selecting beneficiaries in strand 2 (call for proposals and "earmarking"). With regard to the programme budget over the period 2004-2006, at the budgetary conciliation meeting on 24 November 2003 Parliament, the Council and the Commission agreed on an amount of 19 million euro. This is therefore the amount, already accepted by the Commission, which figures in the common position. On strand 2 of the programme, the Council's common position provides for a system of designated beneficiaries in the annex for 2004, then the establishment of a system of calls for proposals for 2005 and 2006. The agreement reached at the budgetary conciliation meeting provides for an extension of the system of designated beneficiaries in 2005. On strand 2 of the programme, the Council's common position provides for a system of designated beneficiaries in the annex for 2004, then the establishment of a system of calls for proposals for 2005 and 2006. The agreement reached at the budgetary conciliation meeting provides for an extension of the system of designated beneficiaries in 2005. With regard to the implementing measures and committee procedures, the common position introduces a standard article to clarify the Commission's role in the implementation of the programme. In this connection a reference to annual reporting by the Commission to the Council and the Parliament has also been added. The Council has introduced other modifications or clarifications, as appropriate: - reference to the Council resolution of 19 December 2002 on how European added value of cultural actions can be identified and evaluated; - reference to a requirement to submit a workplan and budget to the Commission; - co-financing requirement was increased to 20 percent under part 1.

Culture: grants to bodies active at European level, 2004-2006 action programme

2003/0115(COD) - 23/03/2004 - Commission opinion on Parliament's position at 2nd reading

The Commission accepts the amendments made by the Parliament, which are designed to make the text consistent with the extension of the budget earmarking system until 2005, and to introduce two derogations from Article 112 (2) of the Financial Regulation1 so as to take account of the entry into force of this new programme from 2004.

Culture: grants to bodies active at European level, 2004-2006 action programme

2003/0115(COD) - 27/05/2003 - Legislative proposal

PURPOSE : to provide a basic act for the funding of bodies active at European level in the field of culture. CONTENT : the European Union is committed to promoting European cultural networks. For several years support has been provided for this commitment under headings in Part A of the EU's budget. They include co-financing for the operating costs of: - The European Bureau for Lesser-Used Languages (EBLUL) and the Mercator information and documentation centres; - European and international organisations committed to preserving Nazi concentration camp sites as historical memorials - Organisation of European cultural interest. The adoption of an EU Council Regulation on the financial regulation applicable to the general budget of the European Communities and the decision to base the structure of the Commission budget on an Activity Based Budgeting (ABB) approach require basic acts to be adopted for a number of grants hitherto financed under appropriations entered in administrative appropriations of the Commission section of the budget. The purpose of this proposal is to adopt an act providing a basis for grants towards the promotion of European cultural networks. It is set to last for a period of five years (2004-2008). The amounts provided for are largely based on those allocated in the budget of the European Union for the 2003 financial year. The total amount proposed is EUR 30.92 million.

Culture: grants to bodies active at European level, 2004-2006 action programme

2003/0115(COD) - 05/05/2008 - Follow-up document

This report has been prepared by the Commission in accordance with provisions set out in Decision No 792/2004/EC and concerns the implementation of the Community’s action programme to promote bodies active at a European level in the field of culture. It sets out the programme’s main achievements as well as presenting some of the recommendations proposed by the final external evaluation of the programme.

The main aim of the programme was to strengthen Community intervention in culture by supporting European cultural bodies. In order to prepare the final evaluation Ernst & Young was chosen to carry out the evaluation following an open call for tender. The exercise focused on the period 2004-2006 (the period of the entire programme). In summary, the main findings of the evaluator are as follows:

Effectiveness: The evaluators concluded that drawing general conclusions of the programme’s impact on culture was challenging. The programme did, however, promote bodies active at a European level in the field of culture. Objectives were reached largely by supporting networks which helped widen the professionalism of cultural bodies active at a European level. Further, those classified as “ambassadors” contributed to the promotion of culture in a symbolic manner.

Efficiency: Quantifying the overall efficiency of the programme was challenged by the lack of monitoring data. The evaluators did conclude though that the efficiency of actions varied both between and within the three different parts of the programme. Some beneficiaries and applicants, under part II of the programme, expressed the need for greater transparency in the application process – such as the selection criteria and the composition /appointment of the evaluation committee. Several respondents found that more quantifiable selection criteria would have given the selection process greater legitimacy. Of limited merit only was splitting the beneficiaries into ambassadors, European networks or bodies organising cultural events. An analysis of the activities showed that they were, in fact, very heterogeneous. Projects funded under Part III of the programme, on the other hand managed to produce concrete results, in spite of their small size and limited time frame. In other words, according to the evaluator small grants created concrete products.

Sustainability: Although difficult to generalise, the evaluators nevertheless suggest that projects benefiting from Community funding do last beyond the duration of any given project.

Main Recommendations:

The evaluator gives a set of recommendations for future actions. In short they are:

Effectiveness and efficiency:

- The Commission should strengthen links between the cultural sector and other policies. Structured cooperation with other DGs could be implemented for the monitoring of specific projects.
- The Commission should respect the deadlines for the selection procedure and ensure the publication of applicants’ selection earlier.
- The Commission should improve assistance to beneficiaries through publishing a set of guidelines.
- The Commission should develop a data base for monitoring purposes.

Visibility of outputs and results:

- The Commission should introduce specific visibility criteria during the selection process.
- The Commission should prepare a booklet for each beneficiary setting out good practices.

Sustainability:

- The Commission should offer annual as well as multi-annual grants.

- The Commission should strengthen qualitative monitoring during a projects' implementation phase as well as improving resources dedicated to knowledge of the cultural sector.

To conclude, the Commission shares the views expressed by the external evaluators and agrees that the main objectives of the programme have been achieved. Indeed a number of cultural networks and organisations – choirs, museums, orchestras, theatres etc – have received support for the programme to implement activities and projects with a European dimension.

Culture: grants to bodies active at European level, 2004-2006 action programme

2003/0115(COD) - 06/11/2003 - Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading

The European Parliament adopted a resolution drafted by Ulpu IIVARI (PES, FIN) making some amendments to the Commission's proposals. It voted to shorten the programme. Parliament wants it to start on 1 January 2004 and end on 31 December 2006 (instead of ending in December 2008). The budget is therefore reduced from EUR 30.92 million to EUR 22.764 million. Moreover, in order for Parliament to be provided with more information about the various activities and organisations being funded, it should be able to obtain and analyse at the earliest opportunity the external evaluation which had been commissioned into the organisations concerned. The Commission should inform Parliament of the criteria used (priorities, themes and types of activities) before it issued a call for proposals. The Commission is also asked to submit a brief report to Parliament each year on the implementation of the programme. Parliament adopted an amendment underlying the role of cultural organisations in "promoting awareness of Europe's common cultural heritage". In the interests of transparency, the Parliament says that any beneficiary of a grant from the EU budget should indicate this in a prominent place such as a website homepage or an annual report. Parliament also laid down amendments relating to named organisations which may be awarded an operating grant directly and those organisations which receive a grant following a call for proposals in accordance with certain criteria. Finally, the provisions relating to the gradual decrease of grants were deleted.