
(a) A4-0173/97

1. Proposal for a Council Regulation fixing the monthly increases in the intervention price for cereals for the 1997/98 marketing year (COM(97)0089 - C4-0114/97 - 97/0087(CNS))

The proposal was approved with the following amendments:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Text proposed by the Commission(1)</th>
<th>Amendments by Parliament</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(Amendment 1)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recital 2a (new)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whereas the quality criteria for the acceptance of cereals into intervention affect both the market price and the monthly increases; whereas the provision that under certain conditions cereals with a 15% moisture content can be placed into intervention ends with the 1996/97 marketing year; whereas it would be advisable to continue this provision in the 1997/98 marketing year; whereas Regulation (EEC) No 689/92(1) should therefore be extended;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Amendment 2)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recital 3a (new)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Whereas there has been a decline in gross margin of protein crops over the last two years; whereas an improvement in the support system is therefore necessary in order to ensure a comparison in profitability with other arable crops.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Amendment 3)
Article 1

Without prejudice to the last subparagraph of Article 3(3) of Regulation (EEC) No 1766/92, for the 1997/98 marketing year, the monthly increases to be applied to the intervention price applicable for the first month of the marketing year, shall be as follows:

(Table)

Deleted

(Amendment 4)
Article 1a (new)

Article 1a

The Commission shall submit a proposal for the extension of Regulation (EEC) No 689/92 for the 1997/98 marketing year which shall continue the current provisions with regard to the maximum moisture content for cereals taken into intervention for the 1997/98 marketing year.
Legislative resolution embodying Parliament's opinion on the proposal for a Council Regulation fixing the monthly increases in the intervention price for cereals for the 1997/98 marketing year (COM(97)0089 - C4-0114/97 - 97/0087(CNS))

(Consultation procedure)

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the Commission proposal to the Council, COM(97) 0089 - 97/0087(CNS),
- having been consulted by the Council (C4-0114/97),
- having regard to Rule 58 of its Rules of Procedure,
- having regard to the report of the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development and the opinions of the Committee on Budgets, the Committee on External Economic Relations, the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection and the Committee on Development and Cooperation (A4-0173/97),

1. Approves the Commission proposal, subject to Parliament's amendments;

2. Calls on the Council to notify Parliament should it intend to depart from the text approved by Parliament;

3. Asks to be consulted again should the Council intend to make substantial modifications to the Commission proposal;

4. Instructs its President to forward this opinion to the Council and Commission.

2. Proposal for a Council Regulation fixing the monthly price increases for paddy rice for the 1997/98 marketing year (COM(97)0089 - C4-0115/97 - 97/0088 (CNS))

The proposal was approved with the following amendments:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Text proposed by the Commission(1)</th>
<th>Amendments by Parliament</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(Amendment 5) Recital 1a (new)</td>
<td>Whereas it is necessary to respect Community preferences but also to confirm the continuation of the current system for advance fixing of import levies:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Amendment 7) Art 1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Article 3(2) (Regulation (EEC) No 3072/95)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>For the 1997/98 marketing year, the monthly increases provided for in Article 3(2) of Regulation (EC) No 3072/95 shall be ECU 2/t for the intervention price.</td>
<td>For the 1997/98 marketing year, the monthly increases provided for in Article 3(2) of Regulation (EC) No 3072/95 shall be ECU 2.28/t for the intervention price.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Amendment 10) Art 1a (new)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Article 7(1) (Regulation (EEC) No 3072/95)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In Article 7(1) of Regulation (EC) No 3072/95 the following phrase is added: 'for the purposes of this Article 'rice' refers to rice covered by the headings 1006 10 10, 1006 10 21, 1006 10 23, 1006 10 25, 1006 10 27, 1006 10 92, 1006 10 94, 1006 10 96, 1006 10 98.'</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(1) OJ C 101, 27.3.1997, p. 3.
Legislative resolution embodying Parliament's opinion on the proposal for a Council Regulation fixing the monthly price increases for paddy rice for the 1997/98 marketing year (COM(97)0089 - C4-0115/97 - 97/0088 (CNS))

(Consultation procedure)

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the Commission proposal to the Council, COM(97)0089 - 97/0088(CNS)(¹),

- having been consulted by the Council (C4-0115/97),

- having regard to Rule 58 of its Rules of Procedure,

- having regard to the report of the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development and the opinions of the Committee on Budgets, the Committee on External Economic Relations, the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection and the Committee on Development and Cooperation (A4-0173/97),

1. Approves the Commission proposal, subject to Parliament's amendments;

2. Calls on the Council to notify Parliament should it intend to depart from the text approved by Parliament;

3. Asks to be consulted again should the Council intend to make substantial modifications to the Commission proposal;

4. Instructs its President to forward this opinion to the Council and Commission.

(¹) OJ C 101, 27.3.1997, p. 3.

The proposal was approved with the following amendments:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Text proposed by the Commission(1)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(Amendment 11) Recital 4a (new)</td>
<td>Whereas the calculation of storage refunds for sugar has a variable element which is based on interest rates and a fixed element to cover the cost of specialised storage; whereas this latter element has not been reviewed for over a decade and should be modified to reflect changing costs; whereas this review should be carried out on a periodic basis every three years;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Amendment 12) Recital 4b (new)</td>
<td>Whereas the current initial stage in the operation of the first sugar beet processing plant in Portugal, which was set up to allow advantage to be taken of the production quota allocated to Portugal when it joined the European Community, requires efforts to be made to promote the crop within the farming community; whereas the crop in question has to compete with alternatives such as maize and wheat, which are eligible for special assistance co-financed by the EU until the year 2001; whereas Article 46 of Regulation (EEC) No 1785/81 allowed certain Member States to allocate national aid on a temporary basis for similar purposes;</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Amendment 13)
Recital 4c (new)

Whileas, under Regulation (EEC) No 1785/81, Spain is authorized to grant adaptation aid to sugar-producing companies until the 1996/1997 marketing year in accordance with the programme for the restructuring of the Spanish sugar industry; whereas, owing to technical problems, it has not yet been possible for this restructuring to be completed; whereas, moreover, Spain is also authorized to grant adaptation aid to sugar beet and sugar cane producers until the 1999/2000 marketing year; whereas, in order to conclude the industry restructuring programme which encompasses both sugar cane and sugar beet, Spain should be allowed to continue granting aid to the industry until the 1999/2000 marketing year;

(Amendment 14)
ARTICLE 3a (new)
Article 46(6) (Regulation (EEC) No 1785/81)

Article 3a

Article 46(6) of Regulation (EEC) No 1785/81 shall be replaced by the following:

"6. Spain shall be authorized to grant adjustment aid to the sugar-producing undertakings during the 1997/1998 to 1999/2000 marketing years.

The aid shall be granted only for A and B sugars as defined in Article 24(1a) as part of restructuring plans aimed at rationalizing the Spanish sugar industry. These plans shall be forwarded to the Commission. The aid shall be limited to ECU 24 million for the period referred to in paragraph 1."

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Article 3b

1. The Portuguese Government may provide national aid to facilitate the introduction of sugar beet as an agricultural crop.

2. The aid referred to in paragraph 1 shall be degressive until the year 2001 and may not exceed ECU 2.5 million in the next marketing year.
Legislative resolution embodying Parliament's opinion on the proposal for a Council Regulation fixing certain sugar prices and the standard quality of beet for the 1997/98 marketing year (COM(97)0089 - C4-0116/97 - 97/0089(CNS))

(Consultation procedure)

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the Commission proposal to the Council, COM(97)0089 - 97/0089(CNS)(1),
- having been consulted by the Council (C4-0116/97),
- having regard to Rule 58 of its Rules of Procedure,
- having regard to the report of the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development and the opinions of the Committee on Budgets, the Committee on External Economic Relations, the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection and the Committee on Development and Cooperation (A4-0173/97),

1. Approves the Commission proposal, subject to Parliament's amendments;
2. Calls on the Council to notify Parliament should it intend to depart from the text approved by Parliament;
3. Asks to be consulted again should the Council intend to make substantial modifications to the Commission proposal;
4. Instructs its President to forward this opinion to the Council and Commission.

4. Proposal for a Council Regulation fixing the derived intervention prices for white sugar, the intervention price for raw sugar, the minimum prices for A and B beet and the amount of compensation for storage costs for the 1997/98 marketing year (COM(97)0089 - C4-0117/97 - 97/0905(CNS))

The proposal was approved.

Legislative resolution embodying Parliament's opinion on the proposal for a Council Regulation fixing the derived intervention prices for white sugar, the intervention price for raw sugar, the minimum prices for A and B beet and the amount of compensation for storage costs for the 1997/98 marketing year (COM(97) 0089 - C4-0117/97 - 97/0905(CNS))

(Consultation procedure)

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the Commission proposal to the Council, COM(97)0089 - 97/0905(CNS)(¹),
- having been consulted by the Council (C4-0117/97),
- having regard to Rule 58 of its Rules of Procedure,
- having regard to the report of the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development and the opinions of the Committee on Budgets, the Committee on External Economic Relations, the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection and the Committee on Development and Cooperation (A4-0173/97),

1. Approves the Commission proposal;

2. Calls on the Council to notify Parliament should it intend to depart from the text approved by Parliament;

3. Asks to be consulted again should the Council intend to make substantial modifications to the Commission proposal;

4. Instructs its President to forward this opinion to the Council and Commission.

5. Proposal for a Council Regulation fixing, for the 1997/98 marketing year, the prices, aids and percentages of aid to be retained in the olive oil sector and the maximum guaranteed quantity (COM(97)0089 - C4-0118/97 - 97/0091(CNS))

The proposal was approved.

Legislative resolution embodying Parliament's opinion on the proposal for a Council Regulation fixing, for the 1997/98 marketing year, the prices, aids and percentages of aid to be retained in the olive oil sector and the maximum guaranteed quantity (COM(97)0089 - C4-0118/97 - 97/0091(CNS))

(Consultation procedure)

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the Commission proposal to the Council, COM(97)0089 - 97/0091(CNS)(1),
- having been consulted by the Council (C4-0118/97),
- having regard to Rule 58 of its Rules of Procedure,
- having regard to the report of the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development and the opinions of the Committee on Budgets, the Committee on External Economic Relations, the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection and the Committee on Development and Cooperation (A4-0173/97),

1. Approves the Commission proposal;
2. Calls on the Council to notify Parliament should it intend to depart from the text approved by Parliament;
3. Asks to be consulted again should the Council intend to make substantial modifications to the Commission proposal;
4. Instructs its President to forward this opinion to the Council and Commission.

6. **Proposal for a Council Regulation fixing the aid for fibre flax and hemp and the amount withheld to finance measures to promote the use of flax fibre for the 1997/98 marketing year (COM(97)0089 - C4-0119/97 - 97/0092(CNS))**

The proposal was approved with the following amendments:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Text proposed by the Commission (1)</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(Amendment 18) Recital 3a (new)</td>
<td>Whereas the use of agricultural products for non-food purposes should be encouraged; whereas fibre crops in particular are ideally suited for this purpose; whereas, therefore, the proposed reduction of the proportion of aid intended for the financing of Community measures to promote the use of flax fibre should not lead to a lessening of the Community's efforts in this area;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Amendment 19) Recital 4</td>
<td>Whereas there is an upward trend in the area planted to hemp; whereas, in order to alleviate the impact on budget expenditure, the amount of aid should be adjusted accordingly; whereas there is an upward trend in the area planted to hemp; whereas aid for hemp is to be maintained at the same level so that the competitiveness of this renewable raw material is not affected; whereas the aid, pursuant to the provisions on flax fibre, should be granted, from the 1998/99 marketing year, only when there is a sales contract with a recognized processor;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Amendment 20) Article 1(b)</td>
<td>(b) as regards hemp: ECU 716.63/ha. (b) as regards hemp: ECU 774.74/ha.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Legislative resolution embodying Parliament's opinion on the proposal for a Council Regulation fixing the aid for fibre flax and hemp and the amount withheld to finance measures to promote the use of flax fibre for the 1997/98 marketing year (COM(97)0089 - C4-0119/97 - 97/0092(CNS))

(Consultation procedure)

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the Commission proposal to the Council, COM(97)0089 - 97/0092(CNS)(¹),
- having been consulted by the Council (C4-0119/97),
- having regard to Rule 58 of its Rules of Procedure,
- having regard to the report of the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development and the opinions of the Committee on Budgets, the Committee on External Economic Relations, the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection and the Committee on Development and Cooperation (A4-0173/97),

1. Approves the Commission proposal, subject to Parliament's amendments;
2. Calls on the Council to notify Parliament should it intend to depart from the text approved by Parliament;
3. Asks to be consulted again should the Council intend to make substantial modifications to the Commission proposal;
4. Instructs its President to forward this opinion to the Council and Commission.

7. Proposal for a Council Regulation fixing the aid in respect of silkworms for the 1997/98 rearing year (COM(97)0089 - C4-0120/97 - 97/0093(CNS))

The proposal was approved.

Legislative resolution embodying Parliament's opinion on the proposal for a Council Regulation fixing the aid in respect of silkworms for the 1997/98 rearing year (COM(97)0089 - C4-0120/97 - 97/0093(CNS))

(Consultation procedure)

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the Commission proposal to the Council, COM(97)0089 - 97/0093(CNS)(1),

- having been consulted by the Council (C4-0120/97),

- having regard to Rule 58 of its Rules of Procedure,

- having regard to the report of the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development and the opinions of the Committee on Budgets, the Committee on External Economic Relations, the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection and the Committee on Development and Cooperation (A4-0173/97),

1. Approves the Commission proposal;

2. Calls on the Council to notify Parliament should it intend to depart from the text approved by Parliament;

3. Asks to be consulted again should the Council intend to make substantial modifications to the Commission proposal;

4. Instructs its President to forward this opinion to the Council and Commission.

8. Proposal for a Council Regulation fixing the target price for milk and the intervention prices for butter and skimmed-milk powder for the milk year 1997/98 (COM(97)0089 - C4-0121/97 - 97/0094(CNS))

The proposal was approved.

Legislative resolution embodying Parliament's opinion on the proposal for a Council Regulation fixing the target price for milk and the intervention prices for butter and skimmed-milk powder for the milk year 1997/98 (COM(97)0089 - C4-0121/97 - 97/0094(CNS))

(Consultation procedure)

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the Commission proposal to the Council, COM(97)0089 - 97/0094(CNS)(1),
- having been consulted by the Council (C4-0121/97),
- having regard to Rule 58 of its Rules of Procedure,
- having regard to the report of the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development and the opinions of the Committee on Budgets, the Committee on External Economic Relations, the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection and the Committee on Development and Cooperation (A4-0173/97),

1. Approves the Commission proposal;

2. Calls on the Council to notify Parliament should it intend to depart from the text approved by Parliament;

3. Asks to be consulted again should the Council intend to make substantial modifications to the Commission proposal;

4. Instructs its President to forward this opinion to the Council and Commission.

9. Proposal for a Council Regulation fixing the intervention price for adult bovine animals for the 1997/98 marketing year (COM(97)0089 - C4-0122/97 - 97/0906(CNS))

The proposal was approved.

Legislative resolution embodying Parliament's opinion on the proposal for a Council Regulation fixing the intervention price for adult bovine animals for the 1997/98 marketing year (COM(97)0089 - C4-0122/97 - 97/0906(CNS))

(Consultation procedure)

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the Commission proposal to the Council, COM(97)0089 - 97/0906(CNS)(1),
- having been consulted by the Council (C4-0122/97),
- having regard to Rule 58 of its Rules of Procedure,
- having regard to the report of the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development and the opinions of the Committee on Budgets, the Committee on External Economic Relations, the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection and the Committee on Development and Cooperation (A4-0173/97),

1. Approves the Commission proposal;
2. Calls on the Council to notify Parliament should it intend to depart from the text approved by Parliament;
3. Asks to be consulted again should the Council intend to make substantial modifications to the Commission proposal;
4. Instructs its President to forward this opinion to the Council and Commission.

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10. Proposal for a Council Regulation fixing the basic price and the seasonal adjustments to the basic price for sheepmeat for the 1998 marketing year (COM(97)0089 - C4-0123/97 - 97/0096(CNS))

The proposal was approved.

Legislative resolution embodying Parliament's opinion on the proposal for a Council Regulation fixing the basic price and the seasonal adjustments to the basic price for sheepmeat for the 1998 marketing year (COM(97)0089 - C4-0123/97 - 97/0096(CNS))

(Consultation procedure)

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the Commission proposal to the Council, COM(97)0089 - 97/0096(CNS)(1),
- having been consulted by the Council (C4-0123/97),
- having regard to Rule 58 of its Rules of Procedure,
- having regard to the report of the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development and the opinions of the Committee on Budgets, the Committee on External Economic Relations, the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection and the Committee on Development and Cooperation (A4-0173/97),

1. Approves the Commission proposal;
2. Calls on the Council to notify Parliament should it intend to depart from the text approved by Parliament;
3. Asks to be consulted again should the Council intend to make substantial modifications to the Commission proposal;
4. Instructs its President to forward this opinion to the Council and Commission.

(1) OJ C 101, 27.3.1997, p. 16.
11. Proposal for a Council Regulation fixing the basic price and defining the standard quality for pig carcases for the period 1 July 1997 to 30 June 1998 (COM(97)0089 - C4-0124/97 - 97/0097(CNS))

The proposal was approved.

Legislative resolution embodying Parliament's opinion on the proposal for a Council Regulation fixing the basic price and defining the standard quality for pig carcases for the period 1 July 1997 to 30 June 1998 (COM(97)0089 - C4-0124/97 - 97/0097(CNS))

(Consultation procedure)

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the Commission proposal to the Council, COM(97)0089 - 97/0097(CNS)(¹),
- having been consulted by the Council (C4-0124/97),
- having regard to Rule 58 of its Rules of Procedure,
- having regard to the report of the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development and the opinions of the Committee on Budgets, the Committee on External Economic Relations, the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection and the Committee on Development and Cooperation (A4-0173/97),

1. Approves the Commission proposal;

2. Calls on the Council to notify Parliament should it intend to depart from the text approved by Parliament;

3. Asks to be consulted again should the Council intend to make substantial modifications to the Commission proposal;

4. Instructs its President to forward this opinion to the Council and Commission.


The proposal was approved with the following amendments:

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</table>

(Amendment 21)
Recital 4a (new)

Whereas, with effect from the 1997/1998 marketing year, dessert grapes will be treated as fruit and vegetable products; whereas the organization of the market in such products will therefore be established by means of Regulation (EC) No 2200/96(1); whereas, however, in view of the delays which have occurred in the drawing up of the implementing regulations relating to that Regulation and the inevitable difficulties experienced by producers' organizations in preparing and implementing the operational programmes and the market management instruments, the possibility of distilling dessert grapes which are not placed on the market up to the quantities laid down in Article 23 of Regulation (EC) No 2200/96 should be extended by one year:


(Amendment 48)
Recital 4b (new)

Whereas the measures adopted under the 1996/97 price package, especially with regard to the authorization to plant new vines in derogation from Article 6(1), need to be strengthened and continued so as to enable the demand for high-quality wines to be met and the structural capacity of holdings improved:

Whereas wine production in the last four years has not generated the surpluses seen in earlier wine years; whereas, pending a reform of the common organization of the market, the inappropriate and unfair compulsory distillation arrangements should be abolished:

(Amendment 50)
ARTICLE 1(-1) (new)
Article 6(1), third subparagraph (Regulation (EEC) No 822/87)

1. The third subparagraph of Article 6(1) is replaced by the following:

'The second subparagraph shall apply within an overall limit of 20 000 hectares for new vine planting to be carried out over the 1997/98 and/or 1998/99 marketing years. Allocation among the Member States shall be subject to the procedure laid down in Article 83.'

(Amendment 22)
ARTICLE 1(1a) (new)
Article 36(1), first subparagraph (Regulation (EEC) No 822/87)

1a. In Article 36(1), first subparagraph, '1997' is replaced by '1998'.

(Amendment 23)
ARTICLE 1(1b) (new)
Article 36(1), second subparagraph (Regulation (EEC) No 822/87)

1b. In Article 36(1), second subparagraph, '1997' is replaced by '1998'.

1c. The following paragraph is inserted in Article 36:

"1a. The arrangements for allocating the dessert grapes referred to in paragraph 1 within the quantities referred to in Article 23 of the Regulation (EC) No 2200/96 shall be determined in accordance with the procedure laid down in Article 83 of this Regulation and Article 46 of Regulation (EC) No 2200/96."
Legislative resolution embodying Parliament's opinion on the proposal for a Council Regulation amending Regulation (EEC) No 822/87 on the common organization of the market in wine (COM(97)0089 - C4-0125/97 - 97/0098(CNS))

(Consultation procedure)

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the Commission proposal to the Council, COM(97)0089 - 97/0098(CNS)(1),
- having been consulted by the Council pursuant to Article 43 of the EC Treaty (C4-0125/97),
- having regard to Rule 58 of its Rules of Procedure,
- having regard to the report of the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development and the opinions of the Committee on Budgets, the Committee on External Economic Relations, the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection and the Committee on Development and Cooperation (A4-0173/97),

1. Approves the Commission proposal, subject to Parliament's amendments;

2. Calls on the Council to notify Parliament should it intend to depart from the text approved by Parliament;

3. Asks to be consulted again should the Council intend to make substantial modifications to the Commission proposal;

4. Instructs its President to forward this opinion to the Council and Commission.

13. Proposal for a Council Regulation fixing the guide prices for wine for the 1997/98 wine year (COM(97)0089 - C4-0126/97 - 97/0099(CNS))

The proposal was approved.

Legislative resolution embodying Parliament's opinion on the proposal for a Council Regulation fixing the guide prices for wine for the 1997/98 wine year (COM(97)0089 - C4-0126/97 - 97/0099(CNS))

(Consultation procedure)

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the Commission proposal to the Council, COM(97)0089 - 97/0099(CNS)(¹),
- having been consulted by the Council (C4-0126/97),
- having regard to Rule 58 of its Rules of Procedure,
- having regard to the report of the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development and the opinions of the Committee on Budgets, the Committee on External Economic Relations, the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection and the Committee on Development and Cooperation (A4-0173/97),

1. Approves the Commission proposal;
2. Calls on the Council to notify Parliament should it intend to depart from the text approved by Parliament;
3. Asks to be consulted again should the Council intend to make substantial modifications to the Commission proposal;
4. Instructs its President to forward this opinion to the Council and Commission.


The proposal was approved.

Legislative resolution embodying Parliament's opinion on the proposal for a Council Regulation amending Regulation (EEC) No 2332/92 as regards sparkling wines produced in the Community and Regulation (EEC) No 4252/88 on the preparation and marketing of liqueur wines produced in the Community (COM(97)0089 - C4-0127/97 - 97/0100(CNS))

(Consultation procedure)

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the Commission proposal to the Council, COM(97)0089 - 97/0100(CNS)(1),
- having been consulted by the Council pursuant to Article 43 of the EC Treaty (C4-0127/97),
- having regard to Rule 58 of its Rules of Procedure,
- having regard to the report of the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development and the opinions of the Committee on Budgets, the Committee on External Economic Relations, the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection and the Committee on Development and Cooperation (A4-0173/97),

1. Approves the Commission proposal;
2. Calls on the Council to notify Parliament should it intend to depart from the text approved by Parliament;
3. Asks to be consulted again should the Council intend to make substantial modifications to the Commission proposal;
4. Instructs its President to forward this opinion to the Council and Commission.

15. Proposal for a Council Regulation fixing, for the 1997 harvest, the premiums for leaf tobacco by group of tobacco varieties (COM(97)0089 - C4-0128/97 - 97/0101(CNS))

The proposal was approved with the following amendments:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Text proposed by the Commission(1)</th>
<th>Amendments by Parliament</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(Amendment 25) Recital 1a (new)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Whereas it is essential to gear production to market conditions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Amendment 26) Article 1a (new)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Article 1a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6% of each Member State's total production quotas may be allocated to new producers each year by the competent authorities of the Member State.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Legislative resolution embodying Parliament's opinion on the proposal for a Council Regulation fixing, for the 1997 harvest, the premiums for leaf tobacco by group of tobacco varieties (COM(97)0089 - C4-0128/97 - 97/0101(CNS))

(Consultation procedure)

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the Commission proposal to the Council, COM(97)0089 - 97/0101(CNS)(1),
- having been consulted by the Council (C4-0128/97),
- having regard to Rule 58 of its Rules of Procedure,
- having regard to the report of the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development and the opinions of the Committee on Budgets, the Committee on External Economic Relations, the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection and the Committee on Development and Cooperation (A4-0173/97),

1. Approves the Commission proposal, subject to Parliament's amendments;
2. Calls on the Council to notify Parliament should it intend to depart from the text approved by Parliament;
3. Asks to be consulted again should the Council intend to make substantial modifications to the Commission proposal;
4. Instructs its President to forward this opinion to the Council and Commission.


The proposal was approved.

Legislative resolution embodying Parliament's opinion on the proposal for a Council Regulation fixing the amounts of aid for seeds for the 1998/99 and 1999/2000 marketing years (COM(97)0089 - C4-0129/97 - 97/0102(CNS))

(Consultation procedure)

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the Commission proposal to the Council, COM(97)0089 - 97/0102(CNS)(1),
- having been consulted by the Council (C4-0129/97),
- having regard to Rule 58 of its Rules of Procedure,
- having regard to the report of the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development and the opinions of the Committee on Budgets, the Committee on External Economic Relations, the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection and the Committee on Development and Cooperation (A4-0173/97),

1. Approves the Commission proposal;

2. Calls on the Council to notify Parliament should it intend to depart from the text approved by Parliament;

3. Asks to be consulted again should the Council intend to make substantial modifications to the Commission proposal;

4. Instructs its President to forward this opinion to the Council and Commission.


The proposal was approved with the following amendments:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Text and amended text proposed by the Commission(¹)</th>
<th>Amendments by Parliament</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Recital 1</td>
<td>Deleted</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Whereas the support system for producers of certain arable crops established by Regulation (EEC) No 1765/92(¹) provides for compensatory payments and special aids to be granted to producers of cereals, oilseeds or protein plants and linseed in return for a cut in institutional prices and on condition that the producers participating in the general scheme set aside a certain percentage of their arable land:


Whereas the beef sector is experiencing a serious and long-lasting crisis on account of the impact of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE), which makes it necessary to take a series of measures relating to the common organization of the market in beef and veal, financing of which cannot be guaranteed to comply with budgetary discipline within the meaning of Council Decision 94/729/EC(\(^2\)); whereas observance of budgetary discipline can be ensured only by making savings on other market organizations financed by the EAGGF Guarantee Section:

\(^{\text(c)}\)

(Amendments 3 and 29)
Recital 2a (new)

Whereas the across-the-board linear reductions in compensatory payments being considered by the Commission actually run counter to the principles of the common agricultural policy agreed in 1992 and are likely to destroy the confidence of those affected in the reliability of binding commitments:

(Amendment 4)
Recital 2b (new)

Whereas, irrespective of the need to honour unequivocal commitments, the Commission is called upon to submit at the earliest possible opportunity proposals for the period after the year 2000 designed to show how the errors of the common agricultural policy pursued hitherto may be avoided in the future and how an integrated and sustainable policy for the countryside in the European Union must be shaped;
(Amendment 5)  
Recital 3

Whereas arable crops account for by far the largest part of EAGGF Guarantee Section expenditure; whereas that sector is also experiencing a better market situation than expected when the system provided for in Regulation (EEC) No 1765/92 was introduced; whereas, therefore, the requisite savings should be made by adjusting the compensatory payments in that sector;

Deleted

(Amendment 6)  
Recital 4

Whereas, however, the protein plants sector has not developed in the same way as the other arable crops in question; whereas, to safeguard the balance between the various arable crops, compensatory payments for protein plants should be kept at their current level;

Deleted

(Amendment 8)  
Recital 5

Whereas compensatory payments for arable crops from the 1997 harvest other than the advance for oilseeds are chargeable to the 1998 budget; whereas 1997 budget funds need to be released and a system of payment should be established in future which can be administered more effectively; whereas, to that end, advances for oilseeds should be postponed by setting the date from which they may be paid at 16 October, with an increase in the maximum advance payments from 50% to 65%;

Whereas compensatory payments for arable crops from the 1997 harvest other than the advance for oilseeds are chargeable to the 1998 budget; whereas the system of payment for oilseeds should be administered more effectively; whereas, to that end, if under the 1997 budget the appropriations available for financing the advance are not sufficient, that part of the advance payments which cannot be covered in the 1997 budget should be paid from 16 October 1997, with an increase in the maximum advance payment from 50% to 65%; whereas the Commission has to present, not later than 15 September 1997, a proposal to the budgetary authority on the financing of the BSE measures, in the event that these measures for the budgetary year 1997 cannot be paid within the 1997 budget;
(Amendment 9)
Recital 5a (new)

Whereas this amendment to Regulation (EEC) No 1765/92(1) is designed exclusively to ensure that the 1997 appropriations are actually used so that transfers of payments to the 1998 budget are avoided as far as possible, as the European Parliament called for in paragraph 12 of its resolution of 13 March 1997(2) on the budgetary guidelines for 1998; whereas it must be made absolutely clear that this amendment in no way anticipates a radical adjustment of the per hectare compensatory payments made in respect of arable crops, since that adjustment will be made only within the framework of the revision of the CAP scheduled for 1999:


(2) OJ C....

(Amendment 10)
Recital 6

Whereas producers are currently receiving higher compensation for set-aside than for land under cereals; whereas that difference is no longer justified given the economic situation of cereals and having regard to the various adjustments made to the set-aside scheme since it was introduced to make it more flexible; whereas, on the other hand, the current level of compensation for set-aside is likely to persuade producers to practice voluntary set-aside and this would cancel out the objective sought by reducing the rate of compulsory set-aside; whereas compensation for set-aside should therefore be aligned on that for cereals as initially provided for in Regulation (EEC) No 1765/92.

Deleted
(Amendment 11)
ARTICLE 1(1)(a)
Article 4(2), third indent (Regulation (EEC) No 1765/92)

(a) in the third indent of Article 4(2) 'ECU 54.34' is replaced by 'ECU 50.37'

Deleted

(Amendment 12)
ARTICLE 1(1)(b)
Article 4(3), last subparagraph (Regulation (EEC) No 1765/92)

(b) in the last subparagraph of Article 4(3) 'ECU 358.6' is replaced by 'ECU 332.42'

Deleted

(Amendment 13)
ARTICLE 1(1)(c)
Article 4(5) (Regulation (EEC) No 1765/92)

(c) in Article 4(5) 'ECU 138.9' is replaced by 'ECU 128.76'

Deleted

(Amendment 14)
ARTICLE 1(1)(d)
Article 5(1)(b) (Regulation (EEC) No 1765/92)

(d) in Article 5(1)(b) 'ECU 433.5' is replaced by 'ECU 415.24'

Deleted

(Amendment 15)
ARTICLE 1(1)(e)
Article 7(5) (Regulation (EEC) No 1765/92)

(e) in Article 7(5) 'ECU 68.83' is replaced by 'ECU 50.37'

Deleted

(Amendment 16)
ARTICLE 1(1)(f)
Article 7(6) (Regulation (EEC) No 1765/92)

(f) in Article 7(6) 'ECU 48.30' is replaced by 'ECU 35.35'

Deleted
(Amendment 17)
ARTICLE 1(1)(g)
Article 11(2) last sentence (Regulation (EEC) No 1765/92)

(g) in Article 11(2) the last sentence is
replaced by the following:
'The advance must be paid on or after 16
October following the harvest.'

Deleted

(Amendment 27)
ARTICLE 1(1)(ga) (new)
Article 11(2a) (new) (Regulation (EEC) No 1765/92)

(ga) In Article 11 the following new
paragraph 2a is inserted:

'2a. If under the 1997 budget the
appropriations available for financing the
advance are not sufficient, that part of the
advance payments which cannot be
covered in the 1997 budget shall be paid
out after 16 October 1997.

The above provision shall also apply,
mutatis mutandis, in the following year
to the 1998 budget.'

(Amendment 19)
ARTICLE 1(1)(h)
Article 6a(2) and (3) (Regulation (EEC) No 1765/92)

(h) in Article 6a, paragraphs 2 and 3 are
replaced by the following:

'2. For the 1997/98 and subsequent marketing
years, the amount of the compensatory payment
per hectare for linseed referred to in Article
6a(3) shall be ECU 97.43 multiplied by the
regional yield for cereals, excluding maize
yields in those regions where a separate yield is
applied for maize.'

Deleted
(Amendment 20)
ARTICLE 1(1)(i)
Article 6a(4) (Regulation (EEC) No 1765/92)

(i) in Article 6a, paragraph 4 becomes
paragraph 3.

Deleted

(Amendment 21)
ARTICLE 1(2)

2. Council Regulation (EC) No 1872/94 is
hereby repealed(1).

Deleted

Legislative resolution embodying Parliament's opinion on the proposal and amended proposal for a Council Regulation amending Regulation (EEC) No 1765/92 establishing a support system for producers of certain arable crops and repealing Regulation (EC) No 1872/94 (COM(96)0422 + COM(97)0022 - C4-0448/96 - 96/0212(CNS))

(Consultation procedure)

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the Commission proposal and amended proposal to the Council, COM(96)0422 + COM(97)0022 - 96/0212(CNS)({1}),
- having been consulted by the Council pursuant to Article 43 of the EC Treaty (C4-0448/96),
- having regard to Rule 58 of its Rules of Procedure,
- having regard to the report of the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development and the opinion of the Committee on Budgets (A4-0176/97),

1. Approves the Commission proposal and amended proposal, subject to Parliament's amendments;
2. Calls on the Council to notify Parliament should it intend to depart from the text approved by Parliament;
3. Asks to be consulted again should the Council intend to make substantial modifications to the Commission proposal and amended proposal;
4. Instructs its President to forward this opinion to the Council and Commission.

__________________________

II. Proposal for a Council Regulation amending Regulation (EEC) No 2328/91 on improving the efficiency of agricultural structures (COM(96)0442 - C4-0449/96 - 96/0213(CNS))

The proposal was rejected

Legislative resolution embodying Parliament's opinion on the proposal for a Council Regulation amending Regulation (EEC) No 2328/91 on improving the efficiency of agricultural structures (COM(96)0442 - C4-0449/96 - 96/0213(CNS))

(Consultation procedure)

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the Commission proposal to the Council (COM(96)0422 - 96/0213(CNS)(1),
- having been consulted by the Council pursuant to Article 43 of the EC Treaty (C4-0449/96),
- having regard to Rule 58 of its Rules of Procedure,
- having regard to the report of the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development and the opinion of the Committee on Budgets (A4-0176/97),

1. Rejects the Commission proposal;
2. Calls on the Commission to withdraw its proposal;
3. Instructs its President to forward this opinion to the Council and Commission.

Proposal for a Council Regulation amending Regulation (EEC) No 1765/92 establishing a support system for producers of certain arable crops (COM(96)0361 - C4-0496/96 - 96/0221(CNS))

The proposal was approved with the following amendments:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Text proposed by the Commission(1)</th>
<th>Amendments by Parliament</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Recital 3</td>
<td>(Amendment 1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whereas a means should be found to ensure that the adjustment produces a durum wheat production level which is sufficient to supply user industries while keeping budgetary expenditure in check; whereas that objective can be achieved by introducing, for each Member State concerned, a maximum area of durum wheat eligible for the special aid covering all the zones eligible for the supplement to the compensatory payment, as referred to in Annexes II and III to Regulation (EEC) No 1765/92; whereas that maximum area should be fixed on the basis of the largest area which received the supplement to the compensatory payment since its introduction in order to correspond best to production in the Member States concerned; whereas, in the case of Spain, the maximum guaranteed surface area was fixed at 570 000 hectares by Council Regulation (EC) No 3116/94, i.e. at a level that corresponds best to production in that Member State; whereas, in the case of Portugal, the maximum guaranteed surface area was fixed at 35 000 hectares by Council Regulation (EC) No 3116/94 in order to reflect best the production potential in that Member State in view of the existence of a special degressive aid granted to producers of common wheat by Regulation (EEC) No 3653/90; whereas in the case of Italy,</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whereas a means should be found to ensure that the adjustment produces a durum wheat production level which is sufficient to supply user industries inside and outside the traditional production zones while keeping budgetary expenditure in check; whereas that objective can be achieved by introducing, for each Member State concerned, a maximum area of durum wheat eligible for the special aid covering all the zones eligible for the supplement to the compensatory payment, as referred to in Annexes II and III to Regulation (EEC) No 1765/92; whereas for non-traditional production zones the maximum areas should be set in line with historic production and the requirements of the user industries; whereas the maximum area in the traditional production zones should be fixed on the basis of the largest area which received the supplement to the compensatory payment since its introduction in order to correspond best to production in the Member States concerned; whereas, in the case of Spain, the maximum guaranteed surface area was fixed at 570 000 hectares by Council Regulation (EC) No 3116/94, i.e. at a level that corresponds best to production in that Member State; whereas, in the case of Portugal, the maximum guaranteed surface area was fixed at 35 000 hectares by Council Regulation (EC) No 3116/94 in order to</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

in view of the size of the area concerned, account should be taken of the land traditionally down to durum wheat that was taken out of cultivation during the reference period under five-year set-aside arrangements in accordance with Regulation (EEC) No 2328/91; whereas any overshoot of these areas must lead to an adjustment in the applications submitted with a view to the grant of the special production aid for durum wheat;

(Amendment 2)
Recital 3a (new)

Whereas, in addition to the maximum guaranteed areas, each country should be allowed a further 5% to be used to provide incentives for young farmers;

(Amendment 3)
Recital 3b (new)

Whereas the rate of compulsory set-aside decided under the 1992 reforms has been substantially reduced over the past three years, which has led to a corresponding area being brought back into production, and whereas there should therefore be an increase in the maximum guaranteed areas for each country;
(Amendment 4)
Recital 3c (new)

Whereas, by reason of the specific phased transition regime, aid for durum wheat was only introduced for Portugal in 1991; whereas following the introduction of the individual rights regime in 1992 the production quota allocated to Portugal does not offer equality of access for Portuguese producers, although they operate under agricultural and climate conditions comparable to those in the other two Mediterranean areas; whereas durum wheat is a long-established traditional crop in southern Portugal, where it covers 90,000 hectares;

(Amendment 5)
Recital 4

Whereas Annexes II and III to Regulation (EEC) No 1765/92 should be combined in a single Annex for the sake of clarity;

(Amendment 6)
Recital 5

Whereas it is necessary to ensure that the areas in receipt of special aid for durum wheat produce wheat which satisfies the demands of user industries; whereas this may be achieved by requiring that certified seed be used; whereas it is also necessary to leave small farmers the option of using non-certified seed in order to maintain biodiversity, and to provide incentives for the direct production of certified seed by producers’ associations, by means of funding for such a measure; whereas the areas should be used as effectively as possible so as to satisfy the needs of the industries;
3. A supplement to the compensatory payment of ECU 358.6 per hectare shall be paid for the area down to durum wheat in the traditional production zones listed in Annex II, subject to the limits fixed in Annex III.

In the event that the total of the areas for which a supplement to the compensatory payment is claimed is greater than the limit referred to in this paragraph during the course of a marketing year, the area per producer for which the supplement may be paid shall be reduced proportionately.

However, the Member States may distribute the areas indicated above among the production zones as defined in Annex II, or, if necessary, the production regions referred to in Article 3, according to the extent of the production of durum wheat during the period 1993 to 1995. Where this is done, in the event that the total of the areas within a region for which a supplement to the compensatory payment is requested is greater than the corresponding regional limit during the course of a marketing year, the area per producer for which the supplement may be paid shall be reduced proportionately.

This reduction shall operate once there has been a redistribution of areas from regions which have not used up to the regional limit to regions which have overshot the limit.

3. A supplement to the compensatory payment of ECU 358.6 per hectare shall be paid for the area down to durum wheat in the traditional production zones listed in Annex II, subject to the limits fixed in Annex III.

In the event that the total of the areas for which a supplement to the compensatory payment is claimed is greater than the limit referred to in this paragraph during the course of a marketing year, the area per producer for which the supplement may be paid shall be reduced proportionately.

Each country shall have the right to a further 5% over and above the maximum guaranteed area provided it proves that this additional area has been used to provide incentives for young farmers establishing themselves as durum wheat producers.

However, the Member States may distribute the areas indicated above among the production zones as defined in Annex II, or, if necessary, the production regions referred to in Article 3, according to the extent of the production of durum wheat. Where this is done, in the event that the total of the areas within a region for which a supplement to the compensatory payment is requested is greater than the corresponding regional limit during the course of a marketing year, the area per producer for which the supplement may be paid shall be reduced proportionately.
4. In France, in those departments where the production of durum wheat is well established, other than those referred to in Annex II, aid amounting to ECU 138.9 per hectare shall be introduced up to a limit of 50 000 hectares.

In Austria, the aid referred to in the first subparagraph shall be granted up to a limit of 9600 hectares in the regions where the production of durum wheat is well established.

In the Federal Republic of Germany, the aid referred to in the first subparagraph shall be granted in line with historic production prior to the 1992 agricultural reforms and in line with the requirements of the user industries up to a limit of 25 000 hectares.

(Amendment 8)
ARTICLE 1(2)
Article 12, fifth indent (Regulation (EEC) No 1765/92)
- those determining, for durum wheat, the eligibility requirements for the supplement to the compensatory payment referred to in Article 4(3) and the eligibility requirements for the aid referred to in Article 4(4), and in particular determination of the regions to be taken into consideration and the measures to be taken in the event that the limit fixed for the payment of the aid is exceeded; those rules shall stipulate that the grant of the supplement provided for in Articles 4(3) and (4) be subject to the obligation to use certified seed.
- those determining, for durum wheat, the eligibility requirements for the supplement to the compensatory payment referred to in Article 4(3) and the eligibility requirements for the aid referred to in Article 4(4), and in particular determination of the regions to be taken into consideration and the measures to be taken in the event that the limit fixed for the payment of the aid is exceeded; those rules shall stipulate that the grant of the supplement provided for in Articles 4(3) and (4) be subject to the obligation to use certified seed, such use being phased in over a five-year period, leaving small farmers the option of using non-certified seed in order to maintain biodiversity, and providing incentives for the direct production of certified seed by producers' associations, by means of funding for such a measure.
(Amendment 9)

ANNEX

Annex III (table) (Regulation (EEC) No 1765/92)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>hectares</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Greece</td>
<td>597 000</td>
<td>Greece</td>
<td>626 850</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>190 000</td>
<td>France</td>
<td>199 500</td>
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<td>Italy</td>
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<td>1 690 500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spain</td>
<td>570 000</td>
<td>Spain</td>
<td>598 500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Portugal</td>
<td>35 000</td>
<td>Portugal</td>
<td>90 000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Legislative resolution embodying Parliament's opinion on the proposal for a Council Regulation amending Regulation (EEC) No 1765/92 establishing a support system for producers of certain arable crops (COM(96)0361 - C4-0496/96 - 96/0221(CNS))

(Consultation procedure)

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the Commission proposal to the Council, COM(96)0361 - 96/0221(CNS)(1),
- having been consulted by the Council pursuant to Article 43 of the EC Treaty (C4-0496/96),
- having regard to Rule 58 of its Rules of Procedure,
- having regard to the report of the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development and the opinion of the Committee on Budgets (A4-0189/97),

1. Approves the Commission proposal, subject to Parliament's amendments;
2. Calls on the Council to notify Parliament should it intend to depart from the text approved by Parliament;
3. Asks to be consulted again should the Council intend to make substantial modifications to the Commission proposal;
4. Instructs its President to forward this opinion to the Council and Commission.

Resolution on the set-aside rate for the 1998-99 marketing year

The European Parliament,

- having regard to Council Regulation (EEC) No 1765/92 establishing a support system for producers of certain arable crops(1),

A. whereas the compulsory set-aside rate was fixed at 5% for the 1997-98 marketing year,

B. whereas EU producers require a reasonable amount of advance notice to be able to take their production decisions in full knowledge of the facts,

C. whereas the Union must ensure that it maintains its export capacity; whereas an inadequate level of production is making it impossible to meet demand in a satisfactory manner, the end result being the introduction of a tax on exports,

D. whereas, since the 1992 CAP reform, the Commission has fixed the set-aside rate on a yearly basis, according to the state of stocks and of the internal and external cereals markets,

E. whereas, if a compulsory set-aside rate is to be fixed at a level different from that stipulated in the basic Regulation, it must be notified early enough to allow the Community's farmers to commence sowing in full knowledge of the facts; whereas, given the sowing periods in certain Member States, notably in the South of the Community, the Commission should submit an appropriate proposal as quickly as possible, and in any case before 30 June each year,

1. Calls on the Commission to present its proposal on the set-aside rate without delay, to ensure that a decision can be taken by 30 June 1997;

2. Recommends to the Commission that it propose a set-aside rate for the 1998-99 marketing year which will enable the European Union both to meet its own domestic needs and respond to world demand;

3. Calls on the Commission to submit a report on the state of implementation of the various forms of set-aside adopted at the time of the 1992 reform and on the changes made since then, with a view to assessing the overall effectiveness of such measures;

4. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission and the governments and parliaments of the Member States.

2. "SOCRATES" ***I

A4-0188/97

Proposal for a European Parliament and Council Decision amending Decision 819/95/EC establishing the Community action programme SOCRATES (COM(97)0099 - C4-0132/97 - 97/0103(COD))

This proposal was approved with the following amendments:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Text proposed by the Commission(1)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(Amendment 1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recital 3a (new)</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>


(1) OJ C ..., ..., p. ...
(2) OJ C ..., ..., p. ...
(3) OJ C ..., ..., p. ...

Whereas there is a need to ensure that a critical mass of funding is maintained, thereby ensuring that the quality of the collaborative activities to be supported is not endangered.

Whereas the success of the programme would be seriously compromised both if the percentage of projects supported were to be reduced and if the annual average amount of support granted to projects fell below a critical threshold, which would mainly disadvantage those from less favoured backgrounds; whereas there is therefore a need to ensure that a critical mass of funding is maintained.

Whereas the associated countries of Central and Eastern Europe and Cyprus will be participating fully in the programme from 1998 onwards; whereas their financial contribution will call for a similar contribution by the Union in order to ensure reciprocal mobility in line with the Union's political objective.

Whereas there is therefore a need to adjust the financial framework for the programme in order to maintain the programme's capacity to fulfil the objectives set out in the Decision establishing the programme.

Whereas, to avoid a real-term reduction in the contribution by the programme to the mobility of the educational community, there is a need to adjust its financial framework in order to take account, on the one hand, of the increase in demand and the need to maintain a critical mass of funding and, on the other, of the opening up of the programme to the associated countries of Central and Eastern Europe and to Cyprus; whereas such an adjustment will enable the programme's capacity to fulfil the objectives set out in the Decision establishing the programme to be maintained.
Whereas additional funding can be incorporated within the overall allocation for heading 3 of the financial perspective as laid down by the Interinstitutional Agreement of 29 October 1993 and by successive amendments thereto and within the limits of the appropriations available during the two financial years concerned.

(Amendment 6)
ARTICLE 1
Article 7(1) (Decision 819/95/EC)

The financial framework for implementation of this programme for the period referred to in Article 1 shall be ECU 900 million.

The financial framework for implementation of this programme for the period referred to in Article 1 shall be ECU 950 million.
Legislative resolution embodying Parliament's opinion on the proposal for a European Parliament and Council Decision amending Decision 819/95/EC establishing the Community action programme SOCRATES (COM(97)0099 - C4-0132/97 - 97/0103(COD))

(Codecision procedure: first reading)

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the Commission proposal to Parliament and the Council, COM(97)0099 - 97/0103(COD) (1),

- having regard to Articles 189b(2), 126 and 127 of the EC Treaty, pursuant to which the Commission submitted the proposal to Parliament (C4-0132/97),

- having regard to Rule 58 of its Rules of Procedure,

- having regard to the report of the Committee on Culture, Youth, Education and the Media and the opinion of the Committee on Budgets (A4-0188/97),

1. Approves the Commission proposal, subject to Parliament's amendments;

2. Calls on the Commission to alter its proposal accordingly, pursuant to Article 189a(2) of the EC Treaty;

3. Calls on the Council to incorporate Parliament's amendments in the common position that it adopts in accordance with Article 189b(2) of the EC Treaty;

4. Points out that the Commission is required to submit to Parliament any modification it may intend to make to its proposal as amended by Parliament;

5. Instructs its President to forward this opinion to the Council and Commission.

3. Combined goods transport **I

A4-0130/97

Proposal for a Council Regulation concerning the granting of Community financial assistance for actions to promote combined goods transport (COM(96)0335 - C4-0028/97 - 96/0207(SYN))

The proposal was approved with the following amendments:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Text proposed by the Commission(1)</th>
<th>Amendments by Parliament</th>
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</table>

(Amendment 1)
Article 3(4a) (new)

4a. Measures linked with PHARE projects in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe and measures linked with Cohesion Fund projects in Cohesion Fund countries shall be particularly eligible for assistance.

(Amendment 2)
Article 4(1)(b) and (2), introduction

(b) innovative measures, namely specific investments and certain variable operating costs with the exception of measures concerning staff costs, energy consumption and the covering of financial losses.

(b) innovative measures, namely investments in specific operational measures and certain variable operating costs with the exception of measures concerning staff costs, energy consumption and the covering of financial losses.

2. Community financial assistance shall be limited to 50% for feasibility studies and 30% for innovative measures. These should primarily consist of:

2. Community financial assistance shall be limited to 30% for feasibility studies and 50% for innovative measures. These should primarily consist of:

Article 6(1a) (new)

1a. In selecting the projects, the Commission shall strike a balance between the regions and the Member States and shall ensure that the decisions do not lead to a distortion of competition between the regions and the Member States.

Article 6(3)(d)

d) cost factors (especially elements for evaluating the marginal cost of access to the infrastructure, particularly rail, for the service covered by the pilot action and any further information enabling a judgment to be made as to whether aid towards the costs of infrastructure access is justified);

d) cost factors (especially elements for evaluating the marginal cost of access to the infrastructure, particularly rail and inland waterways, for the service covered by the pilot action and any further information enabling a judgment to be made as to whether aid towards the costs of infrastructure access is justified);

Article 6(4)(-a) (new)

(-a) conformity with the axes of the trans-European networks or freight freeways, plugging gaps in the combined transport network, extending the existing combined transport axis and its content, bearing in mind the importance of the 'sea-road' mode, especially for the islands and outermost regions of the EU;

Article 6(5)(d)

(d) a guarantee that, as from 27 June 1997, the railway undertakings taking part in the project hold a licence within the meaning of Article 2 of Directive 95/18/EC.

d) a guarantee that, as from 27 June 1997, the railway undertakings taking part in the project hold, or have applied for, a licence within the meaning of Article 2 of Directive 95/18/EC.
(Amendment 6)
Article 6(7a) (new)

7a. 10% of the funding for the programme shall be reserved, as a priority, for projects directly implementing results of innovative research. These projects must, of course, also satisfy the other criteria, but they shall be given preferential treatment.

(Amendment 7)
Article 7

The Commission shall be assisted by the committee set up in accordance with Article 17(2) of Regulation (EC) No 2236/95, meeting in the composition corresponding to the transport sector.

The Commission representative shall submit to the committee a draft of the measures to be taken. The committee shall deliver its opinion on the draft within a time-limit which the chairman may impose according to the urgency of the matter. The opinion shall be delivered by the majority laid down in Article 148(2) of the Treaty in the case of decisions which the Council is required to adopt on a proposal from the Commission. The votes of the representatives of the Member States within the committee shall be weighted in the manner set out in that Article. The chairman shall not vote.

The Commission shall adopt measures which shall apply immediately. However, if these measures are not in accordance with the opinion of the committee, they shall be communicated by the Commission to the Council forthwith.

The Commission may defer application of the measures which it has decided for a period of not more than one month from the date of such communication.

The opinion of the committee shall be recorded in the minutes; in addition, each Member State shall have the right to ask to have its position recorded in the minutes.

The Commission may take the utmost account of the opinion delivered by the committee. It shall inform the committee of the manner in which its opinion has been taken into account.

The Commission shall ensure, when taking decisions, that due consideration is given to projects which link up connection to the countries of Central and Eastern Europe and projects where there are synergies with the PHARE programme.
The Council, acting by a qualified majority, may take a different decision within the time-limit referred to in the previous paragraph.

The committee shall meet as a rule in public, unless a specific duly argued decision is taken to the contrary and published in good time. It shall publish agendas two weeks in advance of its meetings. It shall publish minutes of its meetings. It shall establish a public register of declarations of interest by its members.

(Amendment 8)
Article 13, second paragraph (new)

In the light of the eastward enlargement of the Union, there should be negotiations in 1999 on increasing the financial framework for the programme. An additional amount of ECU 4 million should be made available annually in support of projects in, or transport axes to, the new Member States.
Legislative resolution embodying Parliament's opinion on the proposal for a Council Regulation concerning the granting of Community financial assistance for actions to promote combined goods transport (COM(96)0335 - C4-0028/97 - 96/0207(SYN))

(Cooperation procedure: first reading)

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the Commission proposal to the Council, COM(96)0335 - 96/0207(SYN)(¹),
- having been consulted by the Council pursuant to Articles 75 and 189c of the EC Treaty (C4-0028/97),
- having regard to Rule 58 of its Rules of Procedure,
- having regard to the report of the Committee on Transport and Tourism and the opinion of the Committee on Budgets (A4-0130/97),

1. Approves the Commission proposal, subject to Parliament's amendments;
2. Calls on the Commission to alter its proposal accordingly, pursuant to Article 189a(2) of the EC Treaty;
3. Calls on the Council to incorporate Parliament's amendments in the common position that it adopts in accordance with Article 189c(a) of the EC Treaty;
4. Calls for the conciliation procedure to be opened should the Council intend to depart from the text approved by Parliament;
5. Asks to be consulted again should the Council intend to make substantial modifications to the Commission proposal;
6. Instructs its President to forward this opinion to the Council and Commission.

¹ OJ C 343, 15.11.1996, p. 4.
4. Honey *

A4-0191/97

Proposal for a Council Regulation laying down general rules for the application of measures to improve the production and marketing of honey (COM(96)0596 - C4-0031/97 - 96/0282(CNS))

The proposal was approved with the following amendments:

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<th>Text proposed by the Commission(1)</th>
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<td>(Amendment 1)</td>
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<td>Citation 1a (new)</td>
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<td>Having regard to the declaration by the European Parliament, the Council and Commission of 6 March 1995 on the incorporation of financial provisions into legislative acts(1).</td>
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Recital 1a (new)

Whereas the European Parliament, in the light of the difficult economic situation of European beekeepers, called unanimously in its resolution of 20 January 1995 on the Commission communication to the Council and the European Parliament 'Discussion paper on European apiculture'\(^1\) for the introduction of direct support measures (a pollination premium and compensatory payments for loss of income attributable to the absence of Community preference), and whereas, since the situation of European apiculture remains serious, such support measures should now be implemented without delay:

\(^1\) OJ C 43, 20.2.1995, p. 130.

Recital 3a (new)

Whereas measures to promote the marketing of high-quality honey in the European Union and to prevent distortions of competition caused by honey imported from third countries are particularly important, and whereas the Directive on honey (COM(95)0722 – 96/0114(CNS)) proposed as part of the simplification of the vertical Directives on foodstuffs should therefore be adjusted accordingly:

Recital 4

Whereas, in view of the spread of varroasis in several Member States in recent years and the resulting problems for honey production, action by the Community is necessary;
Whereas, given these circumstances and in order to improve the production and marketing of honey in the Community, national programmes should be established without delay for each year comprising technical assistance, measures to control varroasis and related diseases, a rationalization of transhumance, the management of regional beekeeping centres and cooperation on research programmes to improve the quality of honey:

Whereas, given these circumstances, national programmes should be established without delay for each year comprising measures to improve the production and marketing of honey in the Community, and whereas these programmes shall be forwarded to the Commission, which shall approve them:

Whereas, in order to supplement the statistical data available, Member States should carry out studies on the structure of the sector, covering production, marketing and price formation;

Whereas, in order to obtain reliable Community-wide statistical data to make it possible to monitor structural changes in the beekeeping sector and market developments regarding honey on a consistent basis, Member States shall carry out, in collaboration with the Commission, studies on the structure of the sector, covering production, marketing and price formation;

Whereas, in order to improve market transparency, the provisions of this Regulation should be supplemented by the introduction of common marketing standards for Community and imported honey:
Whereas the agreement between Parliament and the Commission on comitology, referred to in the European Parliament's resolution of 24 October 1996 on the draft general budget of the European Union for the financial year 1997 - Section III - Commission(1) requires in particular the Commission to keep Parliament fully informed of the work of committees of the type provided for in Article 5 and to require all the members of such committees to sign a declaration that their membership of the committee is not incompatible with their personal interests:

___________


(Amendment 9)
Article -1 (new)

Article -1

1. In order to safeguard the ecological function of beekeeping in Europe, beekeepers shall be paid a pollination premium.

2. The pollination premium shall be ECU 2.5 annually per bee colony in Portugal, Spain and Greece and ECU 5 annually per bee colony in the other Member States.

(Amendment 10)
Article -1a (new)

Article -1a

1. An annual compensatory premium shall be paid to honey producers to offset loss of income attributable to the absence of Community preference.
2. The compensatory premium shall be calculated separately for each Member State on the basis of average values. It shall correspond to the difference between the average price paid to beekeepers per kg of honey and average production costs.

(Amendment 11)
Article 1(1)

1. This Regulation lays down measures for improving general conditions for the production and marketing of natural honey. These measures shall be included in national programmes for each year.

1. This Regulation lays down general rules for the application of measures for improving general conditions for the production and marketing of natural honey. The Member States shall draw up and submit to the Commission national programmes for each year comprising measures which are tailored to the situation and specific needs of their apiculture and which are designed to improve the situation of beekeepers and apiculture.

(Amendment 12)
Article 1(2)

2. The measures shall be:

2. The following measures may be included in the national programmes:

I. The control of varroasis and related diseases; improvement of the conditions for the treatment of hives

II. Measures to improve production and marketing conditions

(a) technical assistance to members of beekeepers' associations and honey houses with a view to improving the conditions for the production and extraction of honey;

(a) technical assistance to beekeepers and their associations with a view to improving the production and marketing conditions for products of apiculture;

(b) the control of varroasis and related diseases; improvement of the conditions for the treatment of hives and the harvesting, storage and packaging of honey;

(b) measures to improve the harvesting, storage and packaging of honey;

(c) rationalization of transhumance;

(c) rationalization of transhumance;
(d) measures to support laboratories carrying out analyses on the physico-chemical properties of honey;

(e) cooperation with specialized bodies for the implementation of applied research programmes to improve the quality of honey;

(ea) any other appropriate measures to improve the production and marketing conditions for honey and other hive products.

(Amendment 13)
Article 2

In order to be eligible for the part-financing provided for in Article 3, Member States shall carry out, in collaboration with the Commission, at regular intervals and for the first time no later than a year after this Regulation enters into force, a study of the structures in the beekeeping sector in their territory, which shall cover recording the number of beekeepers, as well as production, marketing and price formation.

(Amendment 14)
Article 3, second and third paragraphs

The Community shall provide part-financing for the national programmes equivalent to 50% of the expenditure borne by Member States.

The financial reference amount for implementing this Regulation shall be ECU 15 million per year.

(Amendment 15)
Article 3, fifth paragraph

In order to be considered for Community financing, the programmes pursuant to Article 1(1) must be made by 15 October each year; the Commission shall approve them by 15 October in accordance with the procedure laid down in Article 4.
(Amendment 16)
Article 4, first paragraph

The programmes referred to in Article 1(1) shall be drawn up in close collaboration with the representative professional beekeepers' organizations. Programmes shall be forwarded to the Commission, which shall approve them in accordance with the procedure laid down in Article 17 of Council Regulation (EEC) No 2771/75 of 29 October 1975 on the common organization of the market in eggs.

(Amendment 17)
Article 4, second paragraph

Measures contained in operational programmes for Objective 1, 5b and 6 regions shall be excluded from these programmes.

(Amendment 18)
Article 5

Detailed rules for the application of this Regulation, in particular those relating to monitoring, shall be adopted in accordance with the procedure laid down in Article 17 of Regulation (EEC) No 2771/75.

(Amendments 22 and 19)
Article 6

The Commission shall present to the Council every three years a report on the application of this Regulation, initially by (1 July 2000) at the latest. On the basis of reliable statistical data obtained from the studies provided for in Article 2, the Commission shall, if necessary, propose additional measures in order to meet the needs of the sector.
(Amendment 20)
Article 6a (new)

Article 6a

Article 19(1)(a), first subparagraph, of Regulation (EEC) No 2328/91 is replaced by the following:

'(a) in the case of farms keeping cattle, sheep, goats, equines or bees the allowance shall be calculated in relation to livestock numbers. The allowance may not exceed ECU 102 per LU. The total amount of the allowance granted may not exceed ECU 102 per hectare of total forage area of the holding. This hectare restriction shall not apply to beekeeping. A conversion table for expressing cattle, equines, sheep, goats and beehives as LUs is given in Annex I.'

(Amendment 21)
Article 6b (new)

Article 6b

Annex I of Regulation (EEC) No 2328/91 is replaced by the following:

'ANNEX I

Table for converting cattle, equines, sheep, goats and beehives into livestock units (LU) (referred to in Articles 6(5) and 19(1)(a))

Bulls, cows and other bovine animals over two years, equines
over six months  1.0 LU
Bovine animals from six months to two years  0.6 LU
Sheep (ewes)  0.15 LU
Goats (nannies)  0.15 LU
Beehives  0.15 LU

The coefficients relating to sheep, goats and beehives apply to the maximum and minimum amounts per livestock unit as defined in Articles 6(5) and 19(1)(a).'}
Legislative resolution embodying Parliament's opinion on the proposal for a Council Regulation laying down general rules for the application of measures to improve the production and marketing of honey (COM(96)0596 - C4-0031/97 - 96/0282(CNS))

(Consultation procedure)

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the Commission proposal to the Council, COM(96)0596 - 96/0282(CNS)(1),
- having been consulted by the Council pursuant to Articles 42 and 43 of the EC Treaty (C4-0031/97),
- having regard to Rule 58 of its Rules of Procedure,
- having regard to the report of the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development and the opinion of the Committee on Budgets (A4-0191/97),

1. Approves the Commission proposal, subject to Parliament's amendments;
2. Calls on the Council to notify Parliament should it intend to depart from the text approved by Parliament;
3. Asks to be consulted again should the Council intend to make substantial modifications to the Commission proposal;
4. Instructs its President to forward this opinion to the Council and Commission.

5. Tourism

B4-0459, 0461, 0462 and 0465/97

Resolution on tourism

The European Parliament,

- having regard to its resolutions of 17 May 1995 on the functioning of the Treaty on European Union with a view to the 1996 Intergovernmental Conference - Implementation and development of the Union(1) and 13 March 1996 embodying (i) Parliament's opinion on the convening of the Intergovernmental Conference, and (ii) an evaluation of the work of the Reflection Group and a definition of the political priorities of the European Parliament with a view to the Intergovernmental Conference(2),


- having regard to the amended Commission proposal (COM(96) 0635)(4),

- having regard to its final adoption of the European Union’s 1997 budget(5),

- having regard to its resolution of 16 January 1997 on the general outline for a draft revision of the Treaties (6),

A. having regard to the importance of a European policy on tourism in the context of the internal market,

B. whereas the current Dutch presidency has not yet included in its submissions to the Intergovernmental Conference Parliament’s recommendations contained in its resolution of 16 January 1997 referred to above that tourism in its European dimension should form an independent common policy in the revised Treaty,

C. whereas the proposal for a first multiannual programme to assist European tourism - Philoxenia (1997-2000) can undoubtedly contribute to growth and employment by helping to improve the quality and industrial competitiveness of this sector,

D. whereas refusing to adopt the Philoxenia programme make no sense in either political or socio-economic terms, especially when the European Union’s 1997 budget has allocated ECU 4 m in commitment appropriations and ECU 4.75 m in payment appropriations to budget line B5-325 (Community tourism policy),

(2) OJ C 96, 1.4.1996, p. 77.
(6) OJ C 33, 3.2.1997, p. 66.
1. Reiterates the view it expressed in its resolution of 16 January 1997 that tourism, in its European dimension, should form an independent and well differentiated common policy with a legal basis and a chapter of its own in the revised Treaty, and regrets that, so far, this viewpoint has not been put forward in the negotiations among the Member States to revise the Treaty;

2. Calls therefore in the light of its resolutions of 17 May 1995 and 13 March 1996 referred to above on the current Dutch Presidency to submit immediately to the Intergovernmental Conference a proposal to that effect;

3. Calls on the Commission to make further amendments to its proposal for the Philoxenia programme giving serious consideration to Parliament's amendments in its opinion on that proposal and to submit the revised proposal to the Council;

4. Calls therefore on the Council to adopt without further delay the Commission proposal as modified by Parliament’s amendments;

5. Urges the Commission to avoid transferring funding under the 1997 budget from budget line B5-325, which must be fully utilized in order to finance the Philoxenia programme and formulate a policy on tourism at European level;

6. Calls on the Commission, given the potential of the tourism industry to create jobs and generate economic activity, to coordinate DG XXIII activities at all levels in the Commission’s decision-making process in order to provide both greater transparency and external visibility;

7. Regrets that the current Dutch Presidency of the Council has not convened a tourism Council and calls on the Luxembourg Presidency to work together with the Commission to organize such a Council;

8. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the Economic and Social Committee, the Committee of the Regions and the governments and parliaments of the Member States.
6. Novel foods

B4-0496, 0501, 0563, 0564, 0567 and 0570/97

Resolution on novel foods and novel food ingredients

The European Parliament,


A. whereas the Novel Food Regulation is an important contribution to the creation of legal certainty for trade, industry and consumers as regards the placing on the market and labelling of genetically altered foods,

B. whereas there is considerable legal uncertainty among consumers, industry and national licensing authorities as a result of the wide scope for interpreting the Novel Food Regulation,

C. whereas clear implementing regulations on the interpretation of the Regulation are necessary,

D. whereas some Member States have already adopted their own labelling provisions for novel foods,

E. whereas the Commission has hitherto regrettably failed to take clear initiatives on proposing implementing regulations,

1. Reiterates its view that the safety of food and thus the health of the consumer must be the overriding consideration and that transparency for the consumer must be guaranteed, and calls on the Commission to apply in full the precautionary principle;

2. Regrets that the Commission has not enacted any implementing provisions to permit the clear and uniform labelling of novel foods and novel food ingredients in the Community;

3. Is concerned that differing labelling requirements in some Member States could hinder the marketing of novel foods and novel food ingredients in the Community;

4. Expresses its concern that the criteria within the legislation for determining what is to be regulated as a novel food or novel food ingredient could be misused to exclude on narrow technical grounds products or ingredients which should properly be assessed for safety under this Regulation;

5. Calls on the Commission to enact implementing provisions on labelling immediately, to enable European consumers to be informed as precisely as possible of any change to its distinctive features or nutritional characteristics, the effect of which is to render a novel food or food ingredient no longer equivalent to an existing food or food ingredient;

(1) OJ L 43, 14.2.1997, p.1
(2) OJ L 117, 8.5.1990, p. 15.
6. Insists that such a change, once observed, can never fall within the recognized limit values for natural fluctuations;

7. Considers that a change has taken place in the composition of a novel food or a novel food ingredient when its nucleic acid is no longer equivalent to that in an existing foodstuff or ingredient as a result of the use of the techniques referred to in Article 1(2) of the Regulation;

8. Supports unconditionally the need for consumers to have access to all the information they require to exercise their right to choose what to eat and in order to avoid ambiguous or promotional slogans being used by food producers; considers that vague wordings used on labels such as 'produced using modern biotechnology' are not compatible with Article 8(1) of the Regulation;

9. Calls on the Commission to propose criteria for positive labelling of food and food ingredients not consisting of or containing GMOs and not produced using genetic engineering, as foreseen in the Regulation;

10. Undertakes to monitor the implementation of Regulation (EC) No 258/97 in the light of this resolution, to ensure that the Community's legal obligations under the Treaty are fulfilled and to take appropriate action if it appears that this is not the case;

11. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission and the governments and parliaments of the Member States.
7. Progress in implementing CFSP

A4-0193/97

Resolution on progress in implementing the common foreign and security policy (January to December 1996)

The European Parliament,

- having regard to Article J.7 of the Treaty on European Union,

- having regard to Rules 92(4) and 148 of its Rules of Procedure,


- having regard to its resolutions setting out Parliament's attitude on the Intergovernmental Conference now under way,

- having regard to the report of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, Security and Defence Policy (A4-0193/97),

A. whereas, in accordance with Article J.7, second paragraph, of the TEU, Parliament is required to hold an annual debate on progress in implementing the common foreign and security policy,

B. having regard to the objectives of that policy as set out in Article J.1 of the TEU, to the provisions of Article C relating to the consistency of the Union's external activities as a whole, and to the responsibility of the Council and Commission for this broad area,

C. having regard to the use which the European Council and the Council have made of the tools provided in the TEU, especially joint actions and common positions, and the provisions of Article J.4(1) on a future common security policy,

D. whereas important challenges have emerged and new crises have broken out requiring stronger and more effective action by the EU in the field of conflict prevention and the peaceful resolution of conflicts,

E. whereas there is no interinstitutional agreement on the CFSP; whereas the Council pays scant heed to Parliament's assessments and recommendations,

F. whereas Parliament must constantly review its own role and conduct with regard to the CFSP in order to maximize its impact and increase democratic control over the CFSP,

G. whereas the CFSP is not an end in itself, but rather a means of ensuring that the EU can help bring about peace and international security, tolerance, and respect for civil, social, and economic rights and freedoms, and foster and consolidate the European values of democracy, freedom, and solidarity,

H. whereas peace and security policy have not been given the necessary priority; whereas devising and developing non-military means of preventing, containing and settling conflicts will be a task of paramount importance in the years ahead,

I. pointing out, in this respect, that the human rights and democracy clauses which should be included in all the economic agreements with third countries represent a valuable instrument for the protection and support of such values,

J. whereas, in addition to a review of events in 1996 and in anticipation of the forthcoming reform of the TEU, the broad lines along which the CFSP has evolved since its inception in November 1993 should be a further subject of study,

Analysis of the general trends affecting the operation of the CFSP

1. Considers that progress in developing the CFSP while it has been in force has been disappointing as regards improving organization, raising the Union's profile, and enhancing its ability to act; notes accordingly that, among the public at large in the Union, the continuing perception is that the beginnings of the policy have been unimpressive;

2. Considers that, although the appointment of special envoys in specific cases enables the Union to maintain a more visible presence where major conflicts are concerned, the envoys are not sufficient in themselves to ensure that the Union can play a full role;

3. Deplores the fact that, barring rare exceptions, the use of joint actions and common positions was confined to isolated matters and the Union did not venture to employ them to chart long-term comprehensive strategies in relation to key world issues; further deplores the fact that, three years after the entry into force of the Treaty on European Union, there are so few joint actions and common positions in comparison with the number of declarations, although the former are the real instruments of the CFSP;

4. Deplores the fact that the EU has often been unable to implement the human rights and democracy clauses included in the economic agreements with third countries and has turned a blind eye to the flagrant violations and infringements of international conventions that have taken place in some of them;

5. Notes that the intensive political and diplomatic activity of the Union Presidency and the current troika is not regulated within a solid, coherent institutional framework, thus detracting from the purposefulness and effectiveness of the Union's external measures; believes that the current troika structure should be replaced by a more stable troika consisting of the President of the Council, the Commissioner with special responsibility for foreign policy and the Secretary-General of the Council;

6. Notes that, although the CFSP has been in force for several years, the interests which underlie it are shaped at intergovernmental level; points, in particular, to the Commission's apparent surrender of its right to make proposals, as provided for in Article J.8 of the TEU;

7. Recalls that experience has demonstrated the enhanced political weight carried by joint initiatives by the Union in comparison with those of each Member State individually;
8. Deplores the fact that various Member States regularly violate Article J.1(4) of the Treaty, thereby undermining the effectiveness of the CFSP;

9. Points to the need to set up a study and analysis unit, staffed by Commission officials, Council officials and national officials, to assess risks and threats from a European perspective and bring national diplomatic corps and intelligence services into line with the new aspirations of the CFSP;

10. Requests that it be made possible for Member States to use, in third countries where they have no diplomatic mission, the delegations of the Commission for the purpose of representation of their interests in addition to those of the Union;

11. Deplores the unduly slow progress in establishing a common security policy, pursuing defence policy coordination, and cementing relations between the EU and the WEU;

12. Requests that, when the Union sets out to determine its security interests, the emphasis should no longer be only on security in the primarily military sense, but also on a concept having to do above all with economic and social stability, defusing ethnic tensions and promoting ongoing integration;

13. Reiterates its proposal that in the framework of a common security policy the possibility of establishing a European Civil Peace Corps be taken into account in order to strengthen humanitarian action, promote the peaceful resolution of conflicts, prevent the outbreak of new conflicts and provide the necessary confidence-building measures on the basis of existing experiences such as that of the European Community Monitoring Mission (ECMM) in former Yugoslavia;

14. Regrets that the Council has still not reached agreement on a common, restrictive interpretation of the eight existing criteria for arms supplies adopted at the Council meetings in Luxembourg (June 1991) and Lisbon (June 1992);

15. Notes that the CFSP has not been evolving as provided for in the TEU, and calls on the Member States to make the necessary institutional changes to render the CFSP efficient and coherent;

16. Welcomes the progress made by the idea of integrating the WEU into the EU as proposed by certain Member States;

17. Regrets the Council’s failure to make effective use of Article J.3(2), and calls upon the Council to make progress in this area a priority;

18. Regrets that it has proved impossible to reach an interinstitutional agreement on the implementation of Article J.7 of the TEU and that the Council is still failing to furnish regular written reports to Parliament on the development of the CFSP;

19. Believes that the effectiveness and transparency of the CFSP would be greatly enhanced if operational expenditure were normally charged to the Community budget;

20. Stresses that the role of the European Parliament in the CFSP cannot be limited to that of merely receiving information: provision must be made for adequate participation by Parliament in the definition of the guidelines for and political control over the implementation of CFSP measures;

21. Hopes that the Intergovernmental Conference will make structural improvements in the CFSP, in accordance with previous resolutions of the European Parliament, by introducing majority voting, raising the profile of action by the European Union and pursuing defence cooperation;
22. Regrets also that the Council is still neglecting to consult Parliament before common positions and joint actions are adopted, and likewise makes no political response to the recommendations addressed to it; calls in this connection for the latter to be placed formally on the Council's agenda;

23. Asks the Council to accept the inclusion of MEPs in EU delegations during international negotiations at ministerial level;

24. Looks forward to increased cooperation and mutual exchange of information with the committee of chairmen of foreign affairs committees of the parliaments of the Member States, with a view to extending democratic control over the development of the CFSP;

25. Notes the important roles played by the President of Parliament, the Foreign Affairs Committee and Parliament's other committees dealing with external relations, the joint parliamentary committees and the interparliamentary delegations in the monitoring of the CFSP, but reaffirms the need to be consulted and fully informed in writing of the development of this policy, including the adoption and application of joint actions and common positions; stresses, in this connection, that its role in the CFSP cannot be limited to that of merely receiving information, and that provision must be made for its adequate participation in the definition of the guidelines and political control over the implementation of CFSP measures;

26. Regrets not having fully used its right to make recommendations to the Council in the field of the CFSP, and expresses its satisfaction at the 113 topical and urgent resolutions concerning human rights and the CFSP adopted during 1996, while stressing the need to ensure coherence between this procedure and the work of Parliament's committees dealing with external relations; considers that Parliament and its appropriate committee should seek ways of improving the effectiveness of and follow-up to its CFSP instruments, and that this should apply to topical and urgent resolutions, recommendations and debates with the Commission and Council in the margins of Council meetings;

27. Insists on the need to maintain the financing of the CFSP as non-compulsory expenditure in order to allow proper parliamentary monitoring;

28. Confirms its attachment to the defence of its existing assent prerogatives in the field of foreign policy, which are a major instrument of democratic control;

Development of the CFSP in 1996

29. Notes that, rather than breaking new ground, the purpose of the joint actions relating to former Yugoslavia was to continue the measures already adopted in 1995; deplores the fact that there is no common position on Bosnia-Herzegovina and the failure to define a common position laying down the conditions under which political and economic relations with the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia could be improved;

30. Calls on the Council to increase diplomatic and economic pressures on the parties to the Dayton agreement in order to ensure the full implementation thereof, notably as regards extradition of indicted war criminals to the War Crimes Tribunal in the Hague, as well as the location of mass grave sites and the whereabouts of missing persons;

31. Regrets the ineffectiveness of the EU's reaction to the onset of the Albanian crisis and reiterates that a real common foreign and security policy cannot by any means be intended to comprise a sum total of individual geopolitical interests;
32. Observes that Kosovo remains one of those European problem regions which require a lasting solution and deplores the fact that, in 1996 as previously, no effective initiatives were taken to arrange comprehensive talks among all parties concerned, without preconditions;

33. Welcomes the joint action on the appointment and powers of Mr Moratinos as EU special envoy for the Middle East, but regrets the failure to define a more ambitious common position to chart long-term Union policies and provide a reference point for the measures which might be undertaken in the region;

34. Deplores the ineffectualness of Community diplomacy where the events in Cyprus and relations with Turkey are concerned; considers accordingly that a common position should be defined to provide a framework for relations with the latter country, and takes the view that meetings such as the one held recently in Rome between five Member States and Turkey need to involve as many Member States as possible if they are to further the progress of the CFSP and help resolve existing problems;

35. Deplores the total lack of joint actions and common positions on the southern Mediterranean countries in the past two years, and particularly deplores the paralysis with regard to Algeria;

36. Deplores the fact that the EU has been unable to define a common position on the enlargement of NATO, relations with Russia, and the repercussions for the Community enlargement process;

37. Thinks it right that Africa should have been treated as a priority for the CFSP, as evidenced by the declarations, common positions, and joint actions on this subject, but, notwithstanding the undeniable efforts, suspects that the EU’s scope for action may not have been exploited to the full;

38. Applauds the joint actions relating to the special envoy for the Great Lakes region and support for transition in the Democratic Republic of Congo, but deplores the fact that there is no proper clearly defined common policy towards the African continent;

39. Believes, therefore, that a common position should be defined in order to promote a Great Lakes regional conference aimed at solving the refugee problem, supporting democratization in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Burundi and Rwanda, achieving equitable power-sharing in the two latter countries, bringing about strict arms control in the region, and providing a basis for EU cooperation to be pursued in the long term;

40. Regrets that the Transatlantic Declaration signed in December 1996 has had no practical consequences whereby the EU and the United States would coordinate their policies on such vital issues as the Middle East peace process;

41. Considers that intensification of the San José dialogue between the EU and Central America is one of the main objectives of the CFSP and calls for an overall action plan for the CFSP in relation to Latin America which should give rise to a genuine 'transatlantic dialogue' between the two regions;

42. Welcomes the stepping-up of joint action by the Union with a view to securing a ban on anti-personnel mines, but hopes that the Council will display a greater commitment to implementing joint action;

43. Deplores strongly the accentuation of divisions within the Union with regard to relations with the People's Republic of China, which were particularly in evidence during the work of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights;
44. Stresses that these divisions strengthen the hand of those who advocate 'development without democracy', and warns of the serious consequences which such a model has, and could have, both for the People's Republic of China and other countries in the same region and for developing countries as a whole and the preservation of world peace;

45. Welcomes the Commission's efforts and initiatives for the development of the Union's relations with India, and calls on the Council to continue along this path;

46. Believes that the common positions on Burma (Myanmar) and Cuba are a good example of the manner in which the policy tool in question can be put to effective use, and urges the Council to continue with this way of proceeding, since it helps to clarify the Union's external activities and make them effective;

47. Considers the performance as regards security to have been relatively good in terms of the coordinated approaches worked out for international conferences and the improved working and secretariat-level relations between the EU and the WEU, primarily with a view to the evacuation of EU nationals and possible WEU involvement in the Great Lakes region;

48. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Commission, the Council, the governments and parliaments of the Member States and the Secretary-General of the WEU.
8. Relations between EP and national parliaments

A4-0179/97

Resolution on the relations between the European Parliament and national parliaments

The European Parliament,

- having regard to its resolutions of 17 June 1988 on the democratic deficit in the European Community(1), 16 February 1989 on the conciliation procedure(2), 12 July 1990 on the preparation of the meeting with the national parliaments to discuss the future of the Community (the 'Assizes')(3), and 10 October 1991 on relations between the European Parliament and the national parliaments after the Conference of Parliaments of the European Community(4),

- having regard to the various proposals put forward by EU national parliaments for reinforcing their role on EU matters,

- having regard to the conclusions adopted by the Conference of European Affairs Committees (COSAC) in Dublin on 16 October 1996,

- having regard to the Protocol suggested by the Irish Presidency in their Outline for a Draft Treaty,

- having regard to the Round Table meeting with members from national parliaments on 16-17 April 1997,

- having regard to Rule 148 of its Rules of Procedure;

- having regard to the report of its Committee on Institutional Affairs (A4-0179/97),

A. whereas there is reinforced public demand for decision-making within the European Union to take place as close as possible to the citizen and for the European Union to become more open and democratically accountable in its decision-making process and administrative culture,

B. whereas while the competences of the EU have grown in recent years, this has not been matched by a corresponding increase in the powers of parliaments within the EU,

C. having regard, therefore, to the need to strengthen parliamentary control over EU legislative and other activities if the future development of the EU is to be in line with the aspirations of its citizens,

D. having regard to the distinctive and complementary roles to be played by the European Parliament and by national parliaments in this key task of strengthening democratic accountability over EU matters, the European Parliament in controlling the actions of the other EU institutions and bodies, and the national parliaments in controlling their own national governments when the latter act in their EU capacity,

E. whereas national parliaments and the European Parliament share the objective of close cooperation to enable them to carry out optimally the duties of political representation entrusted to them by the citizens of Europe,

F. having regard to the need not to complicate further the institutional structure of the EU, and also to maintain the existing variety of parliamentary cultures within the Member States of the EU,

G. considering that a number of measures now need to be taken at the IGC and elsewhere in order to reinforce the roles of the parliaments of the Union, and to maximize their collective impact, with due respect for the single institutional framework, without creating new formal structures nor undercutting national constitutional provisions or parliamentary traditions,

1. Considers that democratic accountability on EU matters can best be achieved by a combination of the following actions:

   (i) more systematic identification of where there is currently inadequate scope for democratic control of EU matters by national parliaments and by the European Parliament;

   (ii) achieving a more open and transparent European Union;

   (iii) strengthening the powers of the European Parliament;

   (iv) reinforcing national parliamentary scrutiny of EU issues;

   (v) reinforcing cooperation between the parliaments of the Union;

The continuing "democratic deficit"

2. Notes that there are still severe problems of democratic deficit at EU level, and that these are most acute in those cases where proper control cannot be ensured either at national or at European Parliament level;

3. Considers that there are some general problems that are at the heart of the current democratic deficit at EU level:

   (i) qualified majority voting has been introduced in the Council in a considerable number of legislative areas, where individual national parliaments are sidelined in the decision-making process and yet where the European Parliament does not have powers of co-decision;

   (ii) neither the Council nor the European Council, which are major EU institutions, can incur any ultimate political censure, since no vote of confidence in them is possible either in the national parliaments or in the European Parliament;

   (iii) democratic control over bodies (such as Council working groups, comitology committees and decentralized EU agencies) taking, advising upon, or implementing a large number of highly technical EU decisions, is often only indirect or even non-existent;

   (iv) EU decision-making processes remain far too secretive and non-transparent, which is particularly harmful when the Council is acting in its legislative capacity;

4. Considers, moreover, that there are a number of specific policy areas where the democratic deficit is particularly obvious:
- common foreign and security policy;
- home affairs and justice;
- economic and monetary policies in the context of EMU;
- agricultural policy;
- international commercial agreements;
- the procedure for amending the Treaties (Article N of the EU Treaty);

5. Points out that further problems are caused by insufficient coordination between the European Parliament and national parliaments such as over the transposition of EU directives and over the control of fraud and maladministration;

6. Considers that there is a risk of these various problems of democratic accountability becoming more rather than less serious as a result of the Intergovernmental Conference;

7. Believes, in this context, that the likely multiplication of examples of "flexibility" or "reinforced cooperation" not involving all the Member States will pose major new problems for parliamentary control;

A more open and transparent European Union

8. Considers that it is of central importance that the general principle of openness and transparency be introduced into the Treaty, along with the requirement for public access to documents, and that there then be adequate implementing rules to ensure, as a minimum, that the Council act in public in its legislative capacity;

9. Welcomes the fact that all those who spoke at the Round Table with national parliaments on 16-17 April 1997 strongly supported these demands, and calls on the individual national parliaments of the Union to urge their governments to adopt them at the IGC and to follow them up afterwards;

10. Believes that democratic control by the parliaments of the Union would be facilitated if the IGC were to lead to improvement in the structures and decision-making processes of the Union, such as a reduction in the number of and simplification of EU legislative procedures, and the unification of the Community budget;

Strengthening democratic control through the European Parliament

11. Believes that the distinctive role of the European Parliament in democratic control of EU institutions would be greatly reinforced if a number of key reforms were adopted, in particular:

- extending co-decision so that it becomes the normal procedure for EU legislation, and so that true budgetary codecision, doing away with the distinction between compulsory and non-compulsory expenditure, is also introduced;

- extending the scope of the assent procedure to any amendment of the Treaty, decisions based on Article 235 and any other decisions of an organic, quasi-constitutional character and to all international agreements, and strengthening the role of the European Parliament in the appointment of the President of the Commission, the Commission as a whole, and other major EU appointments;
- an increased say for the European Parliament on second and third pillar matters, on the
preparation of international trade agreements, on EMU and in other fields such as
agriculture;

recalls its proposals on the above points in its resolutions of 17 May 1995 on the functioning of the
Treaty on European Union with a view to the 1996 Intergovernmental Conference - Implementation
and development of the Union(1). 13 March 1996 embodying (i) the opinion of the European
Parliament on the convening of the Intergovernmental Conference, and (ii) an evaluation of the
work of the Reflection Group and definition of the political priorities of the European Parliament
with a view to the Intergovernmental Conference(2) and 16 January 1997 on the general outline for
a draft revision of the Treaties(3);

Reinforced national parliamentary scrutiny of EU issues

12. Notes that techniques of national parliamentary scrutiny of EU matters are entirely a matter of
national responsibility, and encourages continued exchange of national experiences on these
questions, so that parliaments are familiar with what is going on elsewhere in the EU, and so that
"best practices" can be adopted on a wider basis;

13. Believes, however, that a number of measures should be taken at European level to facilitate the
tasks of national parliamentary scrutiny;

14. Strongly supports the idea of minimum time limits for consideration of EU legislative documents,
as proposed at the COSAC meeting in Dublin in October 1996 and in the Irish Presidency draft
Treaty, as well as by a considerable number of individual national parliaments;

15. Further supports the proposals that a minimum period of notice of four weeks should be
incorporated within a revised version of the existing Declaration 13, and that this non-binding
declaration be given Treaty force by making it into a protocol;

16. Considers, however, that there are some additional practical problems that need to be resolved if
any new minimum notice system is to work properly:

- the four-week notice period should also apply to pre-legislative documents such as Green and
White Papers and any other Commission consultation documents;

- the definition of what is "legislative" for the purpose of any protocol should not be
established unilaterally in the Council's own Rules of Procedure, but should be laid down by
joint agreement between the European Parliament, Commission and Council, with national
parliaments being given the opportunity to convey their views;

- the notice period should begin when the Council transmits the last language version of a
document to the government of the Member State concerned;

- the conditions for urgency exceptions should be clearly set out in the implementing rules, and
any specific urgency requests properly justified;

(2) OJ C 96, 1.4.1996, p. 77.
(3) OJ C 33, 3.2.1997, p. 66.
national parliaments should be kept fully informed, and be given an opportunity to express their views, when substantial changes are made to a text in the course of a legislative procedure. The European Parliament should seek to promote the utmost openness as regards progress in conciliations under the co-decision procedure;

17. Calls for fuller use to be made of electronic transmission of Commission and other EU documents;

18. Suggests, moreover, that there be two-way electronic transmission of documents, in order to promote exchange of views and information between the parliaments of the Union and the EU institutions;

19. Calls for national parliaments to be given the annual legislative programme at the earliest possible date after it has been drawn up by the Commission, in order to give them the opportunity to consider its contents and to transmit their views; further calls for them to be regularly informed on the implementation of the programme;

20. Considers that this would provide an effective means of informal involvement of national parliaments at an early stage of legislative planning, and would also help national parliaments to examine whether projected legislative proposals are compatible with the principle of subsidiarity;

21. Notes that a further proposal has been put forward for national parliaments to be given a right to go to the European Court of Justice on grounds of "ultra vires" or of non-conformity with the Treaty, but considers that the constitutional objections to such a proposal, as pointed out by those national parliamentarians who spoke on this issue at the Round Table of 16-17 April 1997, outweigh its possible advantages;

Reinforced cooperation between the parliaments of the Union

22. Supports the conclusions of the Dublin COSAC meeting of October 1996 as regards improving the workings of the COSAC, such as through better forward planning and preparation of its meetings;

23. Further supports the idea of COSAC putting forward suggestions on matters of common concern, such as on subsidiarity or on second and third pillar items; believes that they should be addressed to the European Parliament, Council and Commission and that this would not interfere with national constitutional traditions or pose problems about the representative nature of COSAC;

24. Recognizes that there is no present demand for the convening of a Conference of the Parliaments of the Union ("Assizes"), but recommends maintaining Declaration 14 in its present form as it may prove useful in the future;

25. Calls for reinforced cooperation between the European Parliament and national parliaments on a variety of levels, such as by joint meetings of national and European Parliament committees in the same field, bilateral committee meetings, and meetings between respective rapporteurs and between representatives of corresponding political groups;

26. Considers that reciprocal facilities between the national parliaments and the European Parliament have developed somewhat in recent years, but remain very variable from country to country and are still inadequate; notes that, unlike the existing Declaration 13, the need for such reciprocal facilities is not mentioned in the Dublin COSAC conclusions or in the draft protocol put forward by the Irish Presidency, and calls for it to be reproduced in any new protocol;
27. Stresses the European Parliament's undertaking not to deliver a favourable opinion on the reform of the Treaties unless they meet the requirements to render the Union more efficient, democratic and transparent, and expresses the wish that the national parliaments take this opinion of the European Parliament into account during the ratification process;

28. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council and Commission and to national parliaments.
9. Protecting Union's financial interests against international crime

B4-0457/97

Resolution on the creation of a European legal and judicial area to protect the European Union's financial interests against international crime

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the conclusions of the hearing held on 15 and 16 April 1997 on the protection of the European taxpayer through the creation of a common penal and judicial area,

A. having regard to the growing demand for security and justice on the part of European citizens, who find it intolerable that criminal organizations should take advantage of the delays and inconsistencies in European judicial cooperation,

B. whereas the institutional structure of the third pillar concerning judicial cooperation in criminal matters between the Member States of the European Union is currently unable to satisfy this demand,

C. whereas the international conventions drawn up within the Community framework on mutual judicial assistance and approximation of criminal laws have not yet been applied because of the absence of the instruments of ratification,

D. whereas even if these conventions, notably the Convention on the Protection of the Community's Financial Interests, were to secure the necessary ratification and were transposed into domestic law, they would not guarantee equivalent protection in each Member State,

1. Calls again on the Intergovernmental Conference to amend the text of the Treaty so as to:
   - allow majority voting within the Council and a right of initiative for the Commission,
   - associate the European Parliament with the decision-making process,
   - give the Court of Justice competence for preliminary rulings
   - establish a legal base for anti-fraud legislation under the co-decision procedure;

2. Calls on the parliaments and governments of the Member States of the Union to press ahead as a matter of urgency with the procedures for ratifying the international conventions on judicial cooperation in criminal matters;

3. Calls on the Council to make representations to the governments and parliaments of the Member States to ensure that ratification of the Convention on the Protection of the Community's Financial Interests and the attached protocols is completed by mid-1998;

4. Stresses that, if the convention is not ratified within this period, it will be necessary to invite the Commission to exercise its powers of legislative initiative under the EC Treaty;

5. Stresses that, in this connection, the 'corpus juris' for the protection under criminal law of the Community's financial interests drawn up by a group of experts coordinated by the Commission is an important initiative in the field of joint European legislation and criminal procedure and that any legislative initiative taken by the Commission could seek to implement aspects of this text;

6. Considers, however, that the Commission should immediately launch a technical and constitutional initiative to ascertain whether the main elements of the legislation contained in the 'corpus juris' could be incorporated into national law;
7. Undertakes to promote a comparative study in this respect with the parliaments of the Member States;

8. Considers it is possible to establish a Community responsibility for providing coordination and technical support for national courts in respect of cross-border crime affecting the Community budget; stresses that, with this in view, it will be necessary to provide the body responsible for the protection of the Community's financial interests and for combating fraud with:

- the necessary specialist knowledge of national legal and judicial systems;
- the autonomy inherent in the exercise of this function;
- if necessary, a legal basis in as far as this is required by the new functions to be carried out;

9. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Commission, the Council and the governments and parliaments of the Member States.
10. China-Europe relations

A4-0198/97

Resolution on the Commission communication on a long term policy for China-Europe relations (COM(95)0279 - C4-0288/95)

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the Commission communication, COM(95)0279 - C4-0288/95,
- having regard to the Council Conclusions on this communication approved on 4 December 1995,
- having regard to the opinion of the Economic and Social Committee(1),
- having regard to the discussions between its Delegation for relations with the People's Republic of China and the Delegation of the National People's Congress,
- having regard to its previous resolutions on China, Tibet, East Turkestan (Xinjiang), Taiwan, Hong Kong and Macao,
- having regard to its resolutions of 13 November 1996 on the World Trade Organization (WTO)(2), 14 June 1995 on the communication from the Commission ‘Towards a new Asia Strategy’(3), 9 February 1994 on relations between the European Union and the People's Republic of China(4), 28 May 1993 on the inclusion of China and Taiwan in the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT)(5), and on GATT Membership for Taiwan(6),
- having regard to the report of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, Security and Defence Policy and the opinion of the Committee on External Economic Relations (A4-0198/97),

A. whereas it is important for both the EU and China to have a cooperative rather than a confrontational relationship, developing mutual economic interests and encouraging China's fuller participation in dialogue based upon the principle of 'not just business as usual, but also politics as usual',

B. whereas the effects of developments in China over the long term either on its population of 1.2 billion, the EU or the world as a whole are unpredictable,

C. whereas the relationship with China must be based on the objectives of the common foreign and security policy as laid down in the Treaty on European Union, which include the development and consolidation of democracy and the rule of law, and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms,

(1) CES 327/97 of 19-20 March 1997.
(3) OJ C 166, 3.7.1995, p. 64.
D. whereas this can in no way be interpreted as an act of interference in Chinese domestic affairs but rather as a positive action in support of universal values on which common international institutions have been founded,

E. whereas practically all government critics in China have been detained or jailed; whereas the human rights situation in general has shown no signs of improvement over the past years,

F. whereas the EU signed a five-year trade and cooperation agreement with the People's Republic of China in 1985 which has been tacitly renewed from year to year since 1990; whereas an arms embargo, still in force, and diplomatic isolation followed the brutal suppression of the democracy movement in 1989,

G. Noting the rapid rise in EU/China trade and also the limitations caused by China's fragmented internal trade, regional inequality, protectionism, arbitrary tolls and transit fees and poor communications infrastructure,

H. noting the results of the questionnaire of members of the Europe China Business Association 'Trading and Investing in China - China and the World Trade Organization' and its statement that 'China still has a long way to go to adopt commonly accepted practices of international trade, to open its markets, to allow foreign companies to operate freely and to create networks of distribution',

I. having regard to the experience of the European Union in creating a single market of 370 million people based on the harmonization of primarily commercial laws and standards, resulting in economic growth, its experience in assisting the adaptation to these standards of the former command economies of Central and Eastern Europe and the ex-Soviet Union, as well as the current development of a free trade area embracing 12 Mediterranean countries, resulting in an integrated market of some 700 million people,

J. whereas, because of the size of China, the manner in which China's economy develops will have a decisive impact not only on the environment in China itself but on the environment in the whole world and, hence, also in Europe; whereas if China were to reach Western levels of consumption and pollution this would require a more equitable sharing of the global environmental space which would give China more and the West, including the EU, less room for exploitation and pollution than today,

K. noting the political and economic guidelines which have, since 1978, transformed the internal and external position of China,

L. whereas China's impressive economic growth in recent years is creating a need for gradual political and institutional reform regulating in a more democratic way the fundamental rights and duties of both citizens and the machinery of government,

M. noting the reliance of China's rulers on the People's Liberation Army (PLA) in maintaining the political status quo; nevertheless recognizing that, through its pervasive financial, commercial and industrial operations, unique to China's 'socialist market economy', the PLA has also become an agent and beneficiary of economic transition; noting also that the PLA will, owing to its concentration of power, impede the transition to a market economy and democracy until it relinquishes that role,

N. noting with disquiet the increases in Chinese defence spending, with the establishment of a blue-water navy and the modernization of its nuclear forces, increases which have encouraged higher defence spending throughout the region and increased risks of conflict,
O. noting that in 1996 the Criminal Procedure Law and the Administrative Punishment Law were revised; noting however that these laws fall short of international fair trial standards and are partly countered by other laws promulgated since the late 1980s, including the Martial Law adopted in 1996, which criminalize a broad range of activities seen as a threat to the established political, economic and social order,

P. whereas widespread illegal practices by law enforcers, the lack of independence of the judiciary and the arbitrary application of law cause numerous human rights violations and although efforts are apparently being made to curb some of these practices, there is still serious cause for concern about the human rights situation in China,

Q. whereas, as a result of remaining legislation which conflicts with international standards and of the inadequate implementation of modernized laws, there are still serious and systematic human rights violations in China, with increasing and large-scale use of the death penalty even for minor crimes and with a large number of people detained for the peaceful expression of political or religious views, many in labour camps producing goods which may be exported to the EU, violating the provisions of the Generalized System of Preferences,

R. having regard to the continuing repression of ethnic and religious groups, and in particular the Tibetan, Uighur and Mongolian peoples, and the increasing colonization of their territories,

S. deploring strongly the fact that, contrary to the wish expressed in Parliament's resolution of 20 February 1997 on the 53rd session of the UN Commission on Human Rights(1), the Council and Commission were unable to defend a joint position on the issue of serious human rights violations in China at the meeting of the UN Human Rights Commission in Geneva,

T. having regard to the award of its Sakharov Prize for freedom of expression for 1996 to Wei Jingsheng,

U. convinced that human rights tend to be better understood and better protected in societies open to the free flow of trade, investment, people and ideas,

V. whereas the Sino-British Joint Declaration of 1984 states that "the provisions of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights as applied to Hong Kong shall remain in force", with Article 39 of the Basic Law adding that they "shall be implemented through the laws of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region",

W. whereas the application of the same international covenants to Macao was negotiated and agreed in a Memorandum of Understanding in October 1992 between Portugal and China, which voiced no reservations whatsoever; whereas Article 40 of the Basic Law states that the provisions in question shall be implemented through the laws of the Macao Special Administrative Region,

X. whereas the trade and cooperation agreement between Macao and the EC contains a clause under which democratic principles and human rights are regarded as a prerequisite for cooperation,

I. Cooperation

1. Welcomes the Commission's communication; endorses its strategy and programme of activities in China including tackling poverty, the welfare of children, environmental and agricultural reform, business and cultural links and most particularly the development of civil society, democracy and the rule of law, and calls for the necessary financial and human resources to make them fully effective;

2. Recognizes the importance of promoting the People's Republic of China's full involvement in the system of international political, economic and commercial relations and calls for consideration to be given to holding regular summit meetings between the EU and China;

3. Invites the National People's Congress to join in a reconciliation based on the recognition of historic misunderstandings and to move forward to an agenda of shared experience for the fulfilment of the hopes and needs of the people of China and Europe;

4. Is convinced that better mutual understanding between Europe and the People's Republic of China also depends on closer interparliamentary relations; to this end, invites the National People's Congress and its interparliamentary delegation to step up its contacts and meetings in order to promote dialogue and exchanges of views;

5. Calls on the Council and Commission to enter into direct negotiations with the authorities of the People's Republic of China as soon as possible with a view to signature of a framework economic and trade cooperation agreement at a level that reflects the potential of relations between the European Union and the People's Republic of China; draws attention to the fact that in its external economic and trade relations the Union also attaches importance to human rights and the relevant human rights clause, which must include the possibility of suspending the agreement in the event of serious, widespread and persistent human rights violations;

6. Confirms its wish to see China as a full member of the World Trade Organization, on the basis of the conditions already set down;

7. Calls on the Commission and the Council Presidency, under Article J.7 of the EU Treaty, given the importance of China as a partner, to provide a six-monthly assessment of discussions with China following the human rights dialogue, of the state of mutual trade and China's compliance with international instruments, including steps towards WTO and OECD membership;

8. Insists on the need for the EU and its Member States to closely coordinate both their political and economic policies on China, in particular in the United Nations and other international organizations; underlines moreover the need to coordinate EU policy with the United States and Japan;

9. Considers that the role of non-governmental organizations should be developed to complement and support EU and other projects in China, and asks China to legislate on their right of establishment and allow the expansion of their efforts in the country;

10. Calls for the application on a wide scale of EU expertise in remedying environmental degradation resulting from industrial expansion and its consequent pollution, and calls for China's full support for international environmental initiatives;
11. Calls on the Commission and Member States to develop special programmes for environmental cooperation in order to shape the process of economic, and especially industrial, development in such a way that the environment - air, water and soil - is polluted to the minimum; in so doing, account should also be taken of special financial conditions (liabilities and guarantees) for environmental investments, such as the transfer of know-how and the development of environmentally-friendly model factories in sympathy with the local economy;

12. Considers that the EU should continue and expand its programmes of human resources development in China, including action in the field of legal cooperation such as the training of lawyers and judges and work in the field of trade and commercial law, and intensify its programme of educational and cultural exchanges;

13. Asks the Commission to establish training schemes for professional qualifications in areas where European standards provide a model of global validity, such as compliance with environmental norms, information technology, accountancy, law, insurance, banking and securities market skills;

14. Requests the Commission and the Member States to support the establishment in Beijing of an office representing the commercial interests of the EU, and urges the development of a code of conduct, covering economic and social aspects, for EU companies doing business in China;

15. Calls on the Commission to offer its expertise, together with that of the Member States and their relevant professional, commercial and labour organizations, in a task force to assist in the development of China's internal market, according to the principle of sustainable development;

16. Notes that the EU-supported China Europe International Business School in Shanghai has proved to be a highly successful venture which is strengthening business links between the EU and China;

17. Invites the National People's Congress gradually to undertake a programme of legislative reform compatible with the development of a market economy comprising the freedom of movement within China of persons, capital, goods and services, and providing specific guarantees for the rights and activities of foreign investors;

18. Endorses the principle of 'one country, two systems'; but urges China nevertheless to accept the stimulus which should be provided by Hong Kong's model of free trade and the rule of law;

19. Urges the introduction of constitutional democracy in China on the basis of universal principles including the rule of law, freedom of opinion, freedom of association, respect for and protection of privacy, integrity of the person, the right to a fair trial, the right to own, fructify and dispose of property of all kinds and the extension of full private property rights to agricultural holdings to ensure optimum investment and efficiency;

II. International issues

20. Is convinced of the need for the EU to take full advantage of its opportunities for fruitful dialogue with China, as in the ASEAN Regional Forum and ASEM (the Asia-Europe Meeting);

21. Welcomes China's adhesion to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty and the Convention on Chemical Weapons;

22. Deplores the role played by China in the development of nuclear arms in Pakistan, and in other territories, and in the supply of chemical weapons and missiles to Iran;

23. Calls on China to cease its political, military and economic support for the Burmese military junta;
24. Welcomes the agreements between China and its neighbours regarding frontier disputes but notes with disquiet that the 'Strategic Alliance' with Russia may lead to unprecedented arms sales to China;

25. Sees no justification for the lifting of the EU arms embargo imposed on China in 1989 and calls on the Council to ascertain from Member States the extent to which it is being respected, and report thereon to the Parliament;

26. Calls on China to adopt a total ban on anti-personnel mines, and to take part in the Ottawa process aimed at speedily concluding an international treaty on this issue;

27. Welcomes the constructive role played by China in finding agreement on North Korea's nuclear programme and urges China, the United States, South Korea and North Korea to achieve a formal peace agreement; asks China to increase its pressure on North Korea to ensure that it undertakes political and economic reforms at a very early date since they alone can save it from the spiral of destitution in which it currently finds itself;

28. Calls on China, as a member of the UN Security Council, to have recourse to the mechanisms of the UN to resolve regional territorial and sovereignty questions;

III. Human rights

29. Welcomes the revision of certain laws, such as the Criminal Procedure Law and the Administrative Punishment Law, but considers them insufficient to establish full respect for human rights in China;

30. Calls on China to sign and ratify without reservations the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and its two optional protocols, and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and welcomes its stated intention to sign the latter;

31. Calls on China to abolish the death penalty, and to that end asks it to proclaim forthwith a moratorium on executions;

32. Considers that the twice-yearly human rights EU-China dialogue, established in 1995, should be maintained; requests that the Commission inform Parliament before each meeting of the issues to be discussed and afterwards on the outcome;

33. Calls on the Chinese Government to release all those imprisoned or otherwise detained for the peaceful expression of cultural, political or religious views;

34. Calls on the Chinese Government to allow Wei Jingsheng, the winner of the Sakharov Prize, to be received by the European Parliament;

35. Calls on the National People's Congress to repeal its laws that are incompatible with the development of a genuine state governed by the rule of law that respects individual rights, and urges it to reform new provisions on 'endangering state security' to bring them into conformity with international standards, as well as to repeal laws on state security and state secrets, and to ensure protection against arbitrary detention, unfair trial and torture;

36. Calls on the Chinese Government to set up an independent review commission to assess the cases of some 2,700 persons convicted under the laws on 'counterrevolution', now repealed;
37. Calls on China to follow international practice in allowing humanitarian organizations regular and confidential access to those held in prisons, detention centres and labour camps and to guarantee adequate medical care for all detainees;

38. Calls on China to expand cooperation with international human rights mechanisms, especially the UN special rapporteurs, and to allow regular access to Tibet, East Turkestan (Xinjiang) and Inner Mongolia by foreign observers;

39. Condemns China's occupation of Tibet and calls on the Chinese Government to accept the Dalai Lama's proposal which, without raising independence as a preliminary issue, calls for the resumption of negotiations on the basis of recognition of the cultural and religious autonomy of the Tibetan people and its right to self-government;

40. Welcomes the open invitation given to members of European Parliament by representatives of the National People's Congress to visit Tibet and "see for themselves";

41. Calls on the authorities of the People's Republic of China to open a political dialogue with all interested parties which will enable the conditions to be created for a peaceful resolution of the problems in East Turkestan (Xinjiang) and Inner Mongolia;

42. Calls for an improvement of China's labour standards with a phased achievement of international norms, partly in consultation with independent trade unions to be established, possibly linked to membership of the OECD, and, in particular, for EU and other non-Chinese partners in joint ventures to fulfil the international standards for working conditions;

43. Calls on the Commission to open investigations into forced labour and prison labour in China, pursuant to Articles 9, 10 and 11 of Council Regulations on the Generalized System of Preferences, No 3281/94 and 1256/96;

44. Condemns the reaction to the sponsors of a resolution in the UN Human Rights sub-committee in 1997 critical of China’s record and asks other Member states to show solidarity with Denmark, Ireland and the Netherlands, which have been threatened with sanctions by the Chinese Government;

IV. Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan

45. Considers that the future of Hong Kong and Macao and the maintenance of their political, social and economic freedom is a matter of determining importance for the EU, having regard to the Sino-British Declaration of 1984 and the Sino-Portuguese Declaration of 1987;

46. Recalls the undertaking given in the Sino-British Declaration that "the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region will enjoy a high degree of autonomy, except in foreign and defence affairs" for a period of 50 years;

47. Notes that Article 14 of the Basic Law of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region states that "military forces stationed by the Central People's Government in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region for defence shall not interfere in the local affairs of the Region";

48. Notes that, under Article 14 of the Basic Law of Macao, the central government is responsible for defence, which does not entail the stationing of troops, as the Government of the Macao Special Administrative Region is responsible for maintaining law and order;
49. Welcomes the Chinese Government's undertaking not to seek to introduce the death penalty in Hong Kong or Macao;

50. Insists on the full implementation of bilateral agreements on Hong Kong and Macao;

51. Condemns the Chinese Government's decision to dissolve Hong Kong's elected Legislative Council, and repudiates the legitimacy of the Provisional Legislative Council;

52. Notes the assurance given by the Chinese minister responsible for Hong Kong and Macao, Lu Ping, in the European Parliament, that there will be free, multi-party elections in Hong Kong during the first part of 1998 with no restrictions on the participation of any political party;

53. Highlights the provision in the Macao Basic Law for the Legislative Assembly, which has been elected by majority voting by direct and indirect suffrage since 1976, to remain in office as the first assembly after the transfer of sovereignty, and notes the undertakings given by the Chinese authorities in this connection;

54. Regrets the decision of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress to introduce laws restricting freedom of assembly and limiting political freedoms and to repeal parts of the Hong Kong Bill of Rights Ordinance 1991, in contravention of the Basic Law;

55. Voices serious concern at the anti-democratic nature of China's legislation on security and at the provision banning political associations and organizations from having international links which, under Article 23 of its Basic Law, the Macao Special Administrative Region must draw up following the transfer of sovereignty;

56. Resolves to monitor closely the situation in Hong Kong and Macao, given the international importance involved, after the handovers, and in particular the following points:
   - independence of the judiciary,
   - rapid progress to elect the first Legislative Council of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region,
   - continuation of the elected Legislative Assembly of Macao and the reinforcement of its democratic character,
   - continuation of the practice of making regular and timely reports under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and under the International Covenant for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights to the relevant UN bodies,
   - preservation of and compliance with the current rules on freedom of speech, freedom of the press, the right to assemble, the right to demonstrate and freedom for political parties and associations to operate internally and externally,
   - guaranteed freedom of action for humanitarian and human rights organizations,
   - a ban on the death penalty and on extradition to countries which impose the death penalty or life imprisonment,
   - no discrimination among residents on grounds of nationality, ethnic origin, language or any other factor,
   - continuation of an independent civil service appointed on merit,
   - completion of the process of enshrining in local Macao law the Portuguese legal system and the international conventions and regulations in force in the Territory, and its translation into Chinese,
   - independence of the Macao judicial system and training and completion of a local staff of judges, public prosecutors and civil servants with a knowledge of Chinese and Portuguese;
57. Calls on the Commission to produce an annual report covering political and economic developments in Hong Kong and Macao, and welcomes its Declaration on Hong Kong of April 1997;

58. Resolves to liaise closely with the United States Congress, further to the 1992 US Hong Kong Act, and urges the Commission to coordinate its external trade policy with the US Administration in the light of developments in Hong Kong;

59. Calls on Member States to admit with the right of permanent residence those at risk from political discrimination in Hong Kong;

60. Notes the commitment of Beijing and Taipei to eventual reunification but also declares that pressing this at present would lead to conflict;

61. Urges China to develop peaceful relations with the 22 million inhabitants of Taiwan so as to promote stability in the region and calls on it to give a public undertaking that it will not under any circumstances resort to force in its disputes with Taiwan;

62. Calls on the Council to exert pressure on the People's Republic of China so that it acknowledges Taiwan's need to achieve better representation within international organizations in the fields of human and labour rights, economic affairs, the environment and development cooperation;

63. Requests the Commission to open an information office in Taipei in line with Parliament's resolution;

64. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the governments of the Member States, the Government of the People's Republic of China and the Chinese National People's Congress.
11. Baltic Sea Initiative

A4-0196/97

Resolution on the Commission communication on the Baltic Sea Region Initiative (SEC(96)0608 - C4-0362/96)

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the Commission communication on its Baltic Sea Region Initiative tabled at the Conference of Heads of State or Government of the Council of Baltic Sea States (CBSS) - Visby, 3-4 May 1996 (SEC(96)0608 - C4-0362/96),

- having regard to the Final Declaration of the Presidency of the Baltic Sea States Summit 1996 in Visby and the Action Programmes for the Baltic Sea States Cooperation adopted by the CBSS Fifth Ministerial Session in Kalmar, 2-3 July 1996,

- having regard to the Stockholm Declaration on Growth and Development in the Baltic Sea Region of the Baltic Sea Business Summit (Stockholm 24-25 April 1996),

- having regard to its resolutions of 14 July 1995 on the Commission communication to the Council 'Orientations for a Union approach towards the Baltic Sea Region' (SEC(94)1747 - C4-0011/95)(1), 18 April 1996 on the summit of the Council of the Baltic Sea States(2) and 20 September 1996 on the Commission report on the current state of and the prospects for cooperation in the Baltic Sea region (COM(95)0609 - C4-0017/96)(3),

- having regard to the work done by the Barents Euro-Arctic Council (BEAC), where three EU Member States (Denmark, Finland and Sweden) and the Commission participate, and the recently established Arctic Council, of which these three countries are also full members,

- having regard to the report of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, Security and Defence Policy and the opinion of the Committee on External Economic Relations (A4-0196/97),

A. whereas, for hundreds of years, the Baltic Sea region has been an area of rich contacts and communication; whereas the end of the Cold War reopened borders and raised high hopes of increased human welfare, ecological conversion and stability, in a new era based on respect for human rights and the construction of democracy,

B. whereas the Baltic Sea Region has great potential for political and economic development and before the Communist revolution was the fastest growing region in Europe and a region of emerging prosperity,

C. whereas the EU and Russia now have a common land frontier and direct contacts in the Baltic Sea which give special significance to this potential,

D. whereas a failure of policies for reform, growth, integration and stability would pose dangerous threats of destabilization,

E. whereas the three Baltic Republics, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, long occupied by the Soviet Union and made part of the Soviet command economy, are facing extraordinary challenges, have special security concerns and face more difficult transitional problems than most former communist countries,

F. whereas cooperation at many levels - personal, private organization and NGOs, corporate, and governmental - creates a finely meshed network of integration of great importance for stability and development throughout the Baltic region,

G. whereas non-binding cooperation in defence matters and cooperation over peace-keeping and confidence-building security issues are emerging among the Baltic Sea States,

H. whereas Poland, Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia have applied for membership of the European Union and NATO,

I. whereas through its association agreements, its aid programmes and its full membership of the CBSS the European Union can make a crucial contribution to the efforts of creating stability and development, the goal being successful accession negotiations on EU membership,

J. whereas the CBSS had its first meeting of Heads of State and Government in Visby in Summer 1996, which opened up a new political dimension for cooperation in the region,

K. whereas the Commission presented its initiative report to this summit meeting; whereas the Council of Foreign Affairs Ministers adopted three concrete action programmes on stable political development, economic integration, and the Baltic Sea environment,

L. regretting that the Union still maintains barriers against imports of certain products from the Baltic Sea States,

M. whereas, in its first Baltic Sea report (SEC(94)1747), the Commission took a comprehensive view of the northern regions by including the Russian Euro-Arctic areas of the Republic of Karelia and the Murmansk Region in the geographical area of the Baltic Sea Region,

1. Calls on the Council and the Commission to use their influence to promote the ratification of the Europe Agreements for Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania, which were signed on 12 June 1995 but have not yet been ratified by a number of EU Member States, with the aim of turning the Baltic into an intra-European sea marked by close cooperation among all the adjoining states, including Russia;

2. Recalls that, for the Baltic States, access to a number of Community programmes, i.e. in the field of education and research, is dependent on the ratification of the Europe Agreements; observes that these programmes would further improve the accession strategy;

3. Regrets that the Commission's Initiative Report to the CBSS summit in Visby did not represent any truly new initiatives; recognizes, however, its value as a summary of and a starting point for regional policies;

4. Calls on the Commission to improve the quality and efficiency of its aid efforts in the region and to use its membership of the CBSS to take new initiatives in order to promote stability and sustainable development in the region and to strengthen the reform efforts of the applicant states;
5. Notes the important role the Commission plays in the concrete implementation of already agreed action programmes, and urges it to continue and deepen this commitment;

6. Urges the Commission to provide continued incentives for the transformation and reform efforts by adopting a strategy whereby negotiations for EU membership will proceed according to an "order of merit" in which all applicant countries start on the same starting line, meaning that the countries which have best fulfilled the conditions for membership will also be among the first to be admitted as new members; as reforms are typically painful in the short run, such incentives may play an important role in overcoming obstacles in the political process and in safeguarding the continuity of the reform policy;

7. Notes the great progress that the applicant states in the region have made, in spite of difficult circumstances in reforming and transforming their political and economic systems;

8. Notes also the ambitious developments in cooperation on political and economic levels between the three Baltic States, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania and therefore urges the pre-accession countries to develop their own mutual cooperation in order to strengthen their joint position in anticipation of EU membership;

9. Calls on the Commission to support educational programmes and institution building which form the basis for democracy, a free market system, and the rule of law; this would facilitate the adoption of adequate legislation and the implementation and enforcement of law, guarantee the protection of human rights and the rights of minorities and immigrants, facilitate the protection of property and contract rights, make possible the protection of what should become part of the common external border, and enable the incorporation of the "acquis communautaire" and facilitate negotiations for EU membership;

10. Welcomes the decision of CBSS Heads of State to set up a task force of personal representatives on combating organized crime; expects the presentation of concrete results at the next summit in summer 1997;

11. Encourages the Commission to pay special attention to the challenges and concerns of the three small Baltic Republics, Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania, and to recognize their potential in a successful development scenario to contribute through their bilateral contacts with Russia to a more secure Europe;

12. Encourages the Council to use its influence with the Russian Federation to sign without delay the already agreed border agreement between Russia and Estonia;

13. Notes the special difficulties which Estonia and Latvia encounter as a result of the large influx of Russian-speaking people during the period of occupation and who now form a large minority; reiterates that this situation must be handled in conformity with the Council of Europe's statute and the European Convention on Human Rights and refers to the latest Council of Europe Resolution (No 1117/1997) in this respect;

14. Recognizes the advantages which EU membership for the applicant Baltic Sea States would bring in the form of increased political stability for the region as a whole and - as security is indivisible - also for Europe as a whole;

15. Recognizes also the large economic gains which EU membership would bring in the form of scope for increased trade and investment for present member countries also but, of course, especially for the applicant countries where economic reforms and increased confidence would stimulate growth;
16. Encourages the Commission to take additional measures in order to:

- facilitate reforms,
- increase aid flow and make aid policies more effective,
- support the Kalmar action programmes,
- improve regional infrastructure, including cross-border transport networks, and investment conditions;

17. Recognizes the importance of pursuing as part of the Kalmar programme ambitious efforts to improve the environment of the Baltic Sea Region, which is heavily polluted; stresses that it is essential to improve nuclear safety so as to comply with Western standards;

18. Asks the Commission to assist in the strengthening of administrative support for the CBSS, particularly when the action programmes are transposed into separate individual programmes;

19. Calls for a full survey of nuclear waste and other sources of radiation in the Baltic Region as a necessary first step toward protective measures;

20. Urges the Commission to cooperate directly and through the CBSS with other international organizations - for instance the OSCE, the Council of Europe, and the Barents Council - which are committed to promoting stability in the region, economic development and efficient environmental protection;

21. Asks the Commission to report to Parliament on the next CBSS summit, which is scheduled to take place in Latvia in the summer or early autumn of 1997, and to report on the progress made with regard to the implementation of the action programmes;

22. Asks the Commission to participate in the work of the Arctic Council and to coordinate this work with its activities in the CBSS and BEAC;

23. Suggests that its President should, jointly with the presidents of the parliaments of the states bordering on the Baltic, explore the possibilities of holding parliamentary meetings at regular intervals to discuss problems of political cooperation, the desired economic integration into the EU and the strengthening of regional networks; members of the European Parliament and of the parliaments of the Member States and the associated countries in the Baltic region should participate;

24. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the governments of the Member States and the governments of the member states of the Council of Baltic Sea States, the Barents Euro-Arctic Council and the Arctic Council.
12. Free movement of goods in the European Union

B4-0472, 0488, 0500, 0544 and 0558/97

Resolution on the free movement of goods in the European Union

The European Parliament,

- having regard to its resolutions of 15 July 1993 on the serious incidents which have occurred in the south of France and of 23 May 1996 on threats to the free movement of agricultural products in the Union,

- having regard to Article 5 of the EC Treaty, which obliges Member States to adopt all appropriate measures, whether general or particular, to ensure an internal market characterized by the removal of obstacles to the free movement of goods between the Member States,

- having regard to Article 7a of the EC Treaty, which recognizes that the internal market entails an area without internal frontiers, in which the free movement of goods is ensured,

- having regard to Article 39 of the EC Treaty, which establishes that one of the objectives of the common agricultural policy is to ensure the availability of supplies,

A. whereas the free movement of goods, persons, services and capital is a basic pillar of the rule of law and of the introduction of the internal market,

B. whereas this year as in other years farmers in the south of France have been carrying out attacks on Spanish lorries transporting agricultural products originating in Spain,

C. having regard to the frequency of these attacks, which recur year after year, and the impunity enjoyed by their authors,

D. whereas other kinds of attacks have been carried out on Spanish interests in France, such as warehouses of Spanish fruit and vegetables in various French cities, which paralyse the commercial process of distributing fruit and vegetables in the European Union, to the serious detriment of Community consumers,

E. having regard to the violence used in these acts of vandalism against both the goods and the people transporting them,

F. whereas, given the repeated nature of these acts of vandalism, the fact that a judgment on the issue is expected from the Court of Justice does not exempt France from fulfilling its obligations under the EC Treaty,

I. Condemns unequivocally the recent and repeated attacks and the visible failure to take action by the French authorities, which represent a serious threat to the free movement of goods, persons, services and capital within the European Union;

2. Requests that the compensation promised by the French Government should be paid soon and should cover every kind of damage, not only that caused to vehicles and goods but also the loss of markets, and that steps should be taken to ensure that those responsible for the damage are made answerable under criminal and civil law;

3. Points out that the Commission has had to respond to events of this kind by bringing proceedings against France before the European Court of Justice;

4. Calls on the French Government to take all the steps required to ensure that such actions are not repeated;

5. Calls on the Commission to ensure that the 'quality controls' announced by the French Government do not involve infringements of the Treaty;

6. Calls on the Council and Commission to adopt tough and immediate measures to ensure the free movement of goods and fair competition between fruit and vegetable producers and to devise appropriate forms of compensation for the production sectors affected by this situation;

7. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission and the governments of the Member States.
13. Sierra Leone

B4-0470, 0508, 0529, 0534, 0546, 0554 and 0561/97

Resolution on the situation in Sierra Leone

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the statement by the Council Presidency of 28 May 1997,

A. whereas civil war has been ravaging Sierra Leone since 1991 and three coups have been carried out there since 1992,

B. whereas the civil war has claimed thousands of victims and forced roughly half the country’s population into exile,

C. having regard to the signing in Abidjan in November 1996 of a peace agreement which sought to end the civil war,

D. whereas a process of democratization, which had begun with the organization of multi-party elections in March 1996, was underway,

E. particularly concerned at the consequences of the most recent coup of 25 May 1997 by elements of the Sierra Leonean army, who deposed President Kabbah and forced him to flee to Guinea, thus interrupting the process of democratization and dashing hopes of putting an end to the civil war,

F. deeply concerned at the military intervention in Sierra Leone by Nigerian troops, claiming to act under the banner of the West African intervention force, which is merely exacerbating the situation,

G. whereas action by the European Union has hitherto been confined to the issue of the abovementioned statement by the Council Presidency of 28 May 1997,

1. Condemns the coup of 25 May 1997 and calls for the immediate restoration of constitutional order;

2. Supports the diplomatic initiative launched by the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) and the Economic Community of West African States (Ecowas) for the peaceful restoration of constitutional order in Sierra Leone and calls for international diplomatic efforts to be stepped up;

3. Denounces the military intervention by Nigeria, which is abusing Ecomog’s name by exploiting the situation with a view to restoring its international credibility;

4. Condemns the acts of violence perpetrated against the Sierra Leonean population and expatriates;

5. Calls for the European Union to intervene firmly, making use of the instruments at its disposal under the Lomé Convention;
6. Expresses the hope that the passivity which the European Union has once again demonstrated in relation to this episode will serve to encourage the establishment of an effective CFSP in the context of the current review of the Treaties;

7. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the governments of Sierra Leone and Nigeria, the Economic Community of West African States, the OAU and UN Secretaries-General and the Co-Presidents of the ACP-EU Joint Assembly.
14. Human rights

(a) B4-0468, 0487, 0497, 0513 and 0542/97

Resolution on the abolition of the death penalty

The European Parliament,

- having regard to its previous resolutions on the abolition of the death penalty,
- having regard to Resolution 1047 of 1996 and Recommendation 1302 of 1996 of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe on the abolition of the death penalty in Europe,
- having regard to the resolutions on the abolition of the death penalty adopted by the ACP-EU Joint Assembly on 26 September 1996 and 20 March 1997,
- having regard to the latest UN report on the death penalty (E/CN.15/1996/19),
- having regard to the resolution adopted by the 53rd session of the UN Commission on Human Rights in Geneva on the death penalty (E/CN.4/1997/L.20),

A. having regard to the rapid increase in the use of the death penalty throughout the world,

B. welcoming the recent complete abolition of the death penalty in 1995 and 1996 in Italy, Spain, Belgium, Moldova and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia,

C. welcoming the fact that Russia has signed the Sixth Protocol to the European Convention on Human Rights which makes abolition of the death penalty a legal obligation, but regretting that the Russian Duma has rejected a bill on a moratorium on executions,

D. welcoming the fact that, over the last two years, international organizations such as the Council of Europe, the Latin American Parliament and the ACP-EU Joint Assembly have adopted resolutions in favour of a universal moratorium on executions,

E. seriously concerned by recent reports that in some member states of the Council of Europe executions are still taking place, notably in Ukraine, where 167 executions took place in 1996,

F. whereas 28 members of the Council of Europe have abolished the death penalty for all crimes,

G. whereas, of the countries which are members of the Council of Europe, Cyprus, Malta and the UK have not abolished the death penalty for exceptional crimes and Albania, Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Turkey are de facto abolitionist, but still retain the death penalty on their statute books,

H. whereas seven members of the Council of Europe have signed, but not yet ratified, the Sixth Protocol to the European Convention on Human Rights and nine members have not yet signed it,

I. regretting that numerous members of the Council of Europe have not yet signed the second optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,

J. deploring the widespread use of the death penalty in the People's Republic of China,
K. deploring the growing use of the death penalty in most federal states in the USA,

L. whereas Italy has tabled a proposal to the IGC to ban the death penalty in the new EU Treaty,

1. Reaffirms its strong opposition to use of the death penalty anywhere in the world and calls on all countries to adopt a moratorium on executions and to abolish the death penalty;

2. Calls on the Intergovernmental Conference to introduce a ban on the death penalty in the new Treaty on European Union;

3. Calls on those European states that retain the death penalty, without having recourse to it, to abolish it definitively for all crimes as rapidly as possible;

4. Requests Belgium, Croatia, Estonia, Greece, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Moldova and the Russian Federation to ratify the Sixth Protocol to the European Convention on Human Rights and requests Albania, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Turkey, Ukraine and the United Kingdom to sign it;

5. Urges the Russian Federation and Ukraine to honour their commitments to the Council of Europe and immediately to adopt a moratorium and abolish the death penalty;

6. Proposes that candidate countries for accession to the Council of Europe should undertake to sign and ratify the second optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights as a condition of membership;

7. Calls on those signatories to the ACP-EU Convention that have not already done so to abolish the death penalty as rapidly as possible;

8. Considers that the abolition of the death penalty must be taken into account in all negotiations concerning partnership and cooperation agreements;

9. Calls on the Commission to pay special attention to the death penalty in its annual reports on human rights clauses in agreements between the EU and third countries;

10. Calls on the Council, the Member States and the Commission, acting within its remit, to table at the UN General Assembly a resolution on the introduction of a universal moratorium on executions;

11. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Commission, the Council, the parliaments of the Member States of the EU, the parliaments and governments of the member countries of the Council of Europe, the ACP countries, Belarus, Georgia, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bosnia-Herzegovina, the People's Republic of China and the Unites States, the Secretary-General of the Council of Europe and the President of its Parliamentary Assembly, and the Secretary-General of the UN and the President of its General Assembly.
Resolution on Colombia

The European Parliament,

A. whereas the European Parliament delegation visited the offices of the Colombian human rights organization 'Centro de Investigación y Educación Popular' (CINEP), during its most recent official visit in September 1996,

B. whereas it has repeatedly condemned violence on all sides in the Colombian conflict,

C. deeply concerned by the fact that hundreds of thousands of Colombians have had to leave their homes and move to other places within the country in order to escape from violence,

D. noting that most of the murders or abductions have remained unpunished, and denouncing in particular the murder of Mr Josué Giraldo, a human rights campaigner who came to give evidence to the European Parliament during a conference on human rights in Colombia,

1. Expresses its deep shock at the murder on 19 May 1997 at the CINEP of the human rights worker Mario Calderón, his wife Elsa Alvarado Calderón, and her parents by illegal paramilitary forces;

2. Calls on the Colombian Government and judicial authorities to investigate this murder thoroughly and to seek to bring its perpetrators to justice; is aware, in this connection, of the effort made by the Colombian Government in appointing a special group of police investigators who, under orders from the Human Rights Unit of the Public Prosecutor's Office, will carry out the investigation;

3. Expresses its deep concern at this evidence of increased and unprovoked paramilitary violence against non-governmental organizations whose only crime is to seek a non-violent solution to the conflict;

4. Extends its sympathy and support to the friends and colleagues of Mario Calderón and to all who share his commitment to upholding internationally recognized standards of human rights;

5. Calls on the rebel groups, in the context of their negotiations with the Colombian Government, to release the seventy soldiers who have been in their custody since August 1996, as a positive response to the demilitarization of Caguán, an area covering approximately 13 000 km²;

6. Welcomes the setting up of the permanent office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, co-funded by the Commission, and trusts that it will be able to make an effective contribution to respect for human rights and that its reports on the situation in the country will be forwarded to Parliament;

7. Welcomes the fact that the European Community Humanitarian Office (ECHO) has granted the sum of ECU 4.5 million to cover the immediate needs of the people displaced because of the violence;

8. Welcomes the fact that the Colombian Government has clearly reaffirmed the legitimacy of the non-governmental organizations and the social movement and calls for the adoption without delay of effective measures to protect their members;
9. Welcomes the recent creation of an office attached to the Presidency of Colombia which will be responsible for persons uprooted by violence, its brief covering action against forced displacement and assistance for the victims of this phenomenon;

10. Recalls the conclusions of the UN special rapporteur on extrajudicial executions and calls on the Colombian Government to implement special protection programmes capable of responding effectively to the concerns of the large number of human rights observers and organizations;

11. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the Colombian Government, the United Nations Human Rights Commission and to CINEP in Bogotá, Colombia.
Resolution on the continuing human rights abuses in Burma

The European Parliament,

- having regard to its previous resolutions on human rights in Burma and Burma's possible accession to ASEAN,
- having regard to the statement of the Presidency on behalf of the European Union of 30 May 1997 on the deterioration of the political situation in Burma,

A. whereas the State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC) has been recognized by the international community as being guilty of conducting a policy of complete disregard for human rights,

B. noting that the United Nations Commission on Human Rights in its fifty-third session expressed its deep concern at the continuing violations of human rights in Burma including extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions, death in custody, torture, arbitrary and politically motivated arrest and detention, forced relocation, forced labour by children as well as adults, and the abuse of women and children by government agents and oppression of ethnic and religious minorities,

C. noting the report by the UN Commission for the rights of children according to which thousands of children die from the effects of beating, exhaustion or illness during forced labour,

D. deploring the fact that SLORC detained on 21 May 1997 more than 300 National League for Democracy (NLD) members, including 50 elected members of Parliament, to prevent them from attending a party gathering to mark the anniversary of its landslide victory in the 1990 elections,

E. saddened by the recent death in custody of the political prisoner Tim Shwe, a prominent member of the NLD, which again highlights the appalling prison conditions in Rangoon,

F. whereas Aung San Suu Kyi, a winner of Parliament's Sakharov Prize, has on several occasions called on the international community to impose political and economic sanctions on SLORC,

G. regretting the continued surveillance, restriction of movement, and other forms of intimidation of Aung San Suu Kyi and senior NLD leaders, and since September 1996 the almost permanent blockade of the house of Aung San Suu Kyi which has prevented her from giving public speeches,

H. noting that on 20 May 1997 President Clinton imposed economic sanctions on Burma by prohibiting United States citizens from making new investments in Burma,

I. whereas, at the last ASEAN ministerial summit, the governments of the member countries decided to admit Burma as a member, thus ignoring the appeals from various other countries and international organizations for the decision to be postponed on account of the serious political situation in Rangoon,

I. Condemns the military dictatorship in Burma and all human rights violations committed by SLORC;
2. Calls on the Rangoon government to guarantee the fundamental rights of the Burmese people and to put a stop to politically motivated persecution and to fulfil its obligations as a State party to the Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (No 29), and to the Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organize Convention, 1948 (No 87), of the International Labour Organization;

3. Calls on the Council to respond to Aung San Suu Kyi’s request that the EU implement economic sanctions against SLORC by ending all links between the European Union and Burma based on trade, tourism and investment in Burma by European companies;

4. Urges the Commission not to take action against the act regulating state contracts with companies doing business with or in Burma passed on 25 June 1996 by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, under the dispute settlement procedure of the World Trade Organization;

5. Vigorously condemns the accession of Burma to ASEAN, giving it further international recognition despite its violations of human rights;

6. Calls on the ASEAN countries to review their 'policy of constructive engagement' with Rangoon, which appears to confer legitimacy on the policies of Burma's repressive and anti-democratic government;

7. Expresses its support for all the forces of democracy in Burma, in particular the NLD and Aung San Suu Kyi, who are campaigning for the establishment of constitutional government and respect for human rights;

8. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Commission, the Council, the military Government of Burma and ASEAN.
Resolution on the development of the peace process in the former Yugoslavia in respect of the implementation of the Dayton Agreement

The European Parliament,

- having regard to its previous resolutions on the situation in the former Yugoslavia,
- having regard to the Dayton Agreement,
- having regard to the conclusions of the meeting of the Bosnian Peace Implementation Council in Portugal,

A. noting that full and strict implementation of all provisions of the Dayton Agreement is essential for the continuation of the peace process and the establishment of a multi-cultural and multi-religious society without ethnic division in the countries of the former Yugoslavia,

B. noting that insufficient progress has been made until now with the implementation of the Dayton Agreement as regards the free movement of people and the right of all refugees and displaced persons to return to their homes of origin; noting that the Croatian government has hindered their return, partly by allowing confiscation of Serbian property through a “temporary” housing law and by undertaking a programme to settle ethnic Croats from Bosnia in seized property,

C. whereas the right of return is being blocked by ethnic policies of authorities in parts of Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina,

D. whereas the continuous harassment of returning refugees, disputes over property ownership and the lack of security provision for minorities in all parts of Bosnia-Herzegovina, the Krajina and Eastern Slavonia seriously endanger the establishment of a lasting peace in these parts of the former Yugoslavia,

E. noting with grave concern that hardly any of the indicted war criminals have yet been arrested and that there is still a general lack of cooperation between the governments of Serbia, Croatia and in particular the authorities of the Republika Srpska and the War Crimes Tribunal in The Hague,

F. whereas the return of refugees in dignity and safety cannot take place in entities, regions and communities where war criminals hold high public office or have influential positions in society,

G. aware that the continuing presence of SFOR and the UN Transitional Administration for Eastern Slavonia (UNTAES) is still needed to guarantee the security of the population and the continuation of the peace process in the countries of the former Yugoslavia,

H. pointing out that the European Union’s support for reconstruction in the countries of the former Yugoslavia is conditional on the full and strict implementation of the Dayton Agreement,

I. whereas economic recovery is also impeded by ethnic divisions and policies,

I. Calls on the governments of Serbia, Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina to strengthen their commitment to the continuation of the peace process in the former Yugoslavia and to adhere to the full and strict implementation of the provisions of the Dayton Agreement;
2. Calls especially on the government and authorities of Bosnia-Herzegovina to guarantee the free movement of people and the right of all refugees and displaced persons to return to their homes of origin and to put an end to all physical and legal obstacles obstructing these aims, thus restoring the rule of law in the country;

3. Calls on the Commission and the Council to further the establishment of a special Bosnian office, provided with a clearing house which assists in overcoming the complexities of the return of refugees to their homes and which has authority to arrange returns in both entities, where necessary in collaboration with the Republic of Croatia;

4. Calls on the Croatian authorities to put an end to the harassment of ethnic Serbs and make proper provision for their security, notably in the western part of Croatia and in Eastern Slavonia, and to make all efforts to encourage the return of refugees and displaced persons to their homes and actively cooperate in implementing all the civilian aspects of the Dayton Agreement;

5. Calls on the Council and the Member States to uphold a position in the UN Security Council to extend the SFOR and UNTAES presence in Bosnia-Herzegovina and Eastern Slavonia respectively and calls furthermore for proper international monitoring of the future implementation of Croatian jurisdiction in the area as well as the human rights situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina;

6. Furthermore urges the governments of Serbia, Croatia and in particular the authorities of the Republika Srpska to guarantee their full cooperation with the War Crimes Tribunal in The Hague and to ensure the arrest and the bringing to trial of all indicted war criminals;

7. Calls on the Commission, the Council and the Member States to step up their pressure on the governments and authorities of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina to permit refugees and displaced persons to return to their homes of origin, to ensure their full compliance with all other provisions of the Dayton Agreement and to review support for the reconstruction process in the light of each country’s compliance with these provisions;

8. Calls, in this respect, on the Commission to apply economic leverage more vigorously, making it clear once more to all signatories of the Dayton Agreement that closer political and economic cooperation between the European Union and these countries is strictly conditional on the full implementation of the Dayton Agreement; asks the Commission to consider decentralizing and differentiating its aid in order to recognize the difference between those who comply with the Dayton Agreement and those who do not;

9. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the governments of Croatia, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and Bosnia-Herzegovina, the UN Security Council, the OSCE and the High Representative.
Resolution on the fate of street children in Moscow

The European Parliament,

A. whereas in Moscow, as in other major cities in the Russian Federation, a considerable number of homeless children finds itself in the streets, while the municipal authorities are withholding any support on the ground that these children do not have the formal documents to prove their right of residence in Moscow,

B. whereas several initiatives have been taken by private individuals and groups from civil society with a view to providing these children with housing, food and, where possible, education,

C. whereas the municipal authorities in Moscow have repeatedly tried to close the "Island of Hope" project claiming that the children concerned had no right to be in Moscow and therefore should not be provided with any support,

D. whereas furthermore on 15 May 1997 elements from within the police and security forces broke into the “Island of Hope” building, physically abusing staff members, carrying away children, damaging property and calling for the closure of the entire operation,

1. Draws attention to the plight of the many street children in Moscow and other Russian cities, many of whom have no formal documents to prove their right of residence in Moscow and are therefore denied any support by the municipal services under rules dating from the Soviet regime;

2. Welcomes the initiatives coming from civil society, such as the “Island of Hope”, providing basic services such as housing and food to these destitute children;

3. Is distressed by reports that the municipal authorities in Moscow are trying to close down such initiatives invoking rules dating from the Soviet era, thus effectively depriving these children of any support whatsoever;

4. Is shocked by the ensuing physical attacks on 15 May 1997 by elements from within the police and security forces on the "Island of Hope";

5. Calls upon the municipal authorities in Moscow to allow for humanitarian reasons initiatives emanating from civil society that seek to provide basic services to street children, services the municipality itself in many cases refuses to provide, and calls upon the relevant authorities in Russia to restrain the police and security forces so as to prevent a repetition of the attack on 15 May 1997;

6. Instructs its Delegation for Relations with the Russian Federation to discuss the plight of street children with the Mayor of Moscow during its next stay for the interparliamentary meeting in Moscow;
7. Calls upon the Commission and the Council in the context of their relations with the Russian Federation to suggest a review as a priority matter of those rules from the Soviet era which prevent humanitarian initiatives from civil society;

8. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Commission, the Council, the President of the Russian Federation, the Russian Duma and the municipal authorities of Moscow.
Resolution on the elections in Indonesia and the situation in East Timor

The European Parliament,

- having regard to its previous resolutions on Indonesia and East Timor,

A. whereas the legislative elections in Indonesia on 19 May 1997 were far from being free and fair, mainly because of the Indonesian authorities' continued severe restrictions of civil liberties and violations of human rights,

B. whereas an election monitoring committee not recognized by the government claims that there were systematic violations of electoral laws and vote-rigging in favour of Golkar,

C. whereas the election campaign has been the most violent in decades, especially in occupied East Timor, where at least 34 people were killed in four days around polling day,

D. having regard to the recent proposals of the National Maubere Resistance Council (CNRM) aimed at achieving a peaceful solution to the conflict via the phased withdrawal of Indonesian troops, thus creating the conditions for the holding of a referendum on the future status of the territory,

E. whereas the Indonesian authorities are continuing to ignore all the positions taken by the international community in favour of self-determination for the people of East Timor and respect for human rights in Indonesia,

1. Condemns the undemocratic practices by the Indonesian authorities that make a mockery of elections;

2. Calls on the Indonesian authorities to release all political prisoners and repeal legislation that restricts the rights of political participation, association and expression;

3. Declares its support for the democratic forces which struggle for democracy and respect for human rights in Indonesia and East Timor;

4. Calls on the Indonesian Government to consider the CNRM's proposal for a peaceful solution to the conflict;

5. Wishes to see a speedy and favourable conclusion to the negotiations currently under way between Indonesia and Portugal, under the auspices of the UN Secretary-General, as well as to the dialogue inside Timor, and insists that these processes should include the participation of representatives of the people of East Timor;

6. Calls on the Commission to submit a report on the situation in East Timor and human rights violations in Indonesia, and to take all necessary steps in this connection;

7. Reiterates its decision to send a delegation to East Timor to establish the facts, and calls on the Government of Indonesia not to put any obstacles in the way of that delegation's visit;

8. Calls on the Council to act in accordance with its own position of 14 June 1995 on East Timor and Indonesia;
9. Calls on the Commission to support projects that strengthen democracy and the rule of law in Indonesia;

10. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the Government of Indonesia, the UN Secretary-General and the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights.
Resolution on obstruction of non-governmental humanitarian relief organizations in Belarus

The European Parliament,

- having regard to its previous resolutions on the situation in Belarus,
- having regard to the Council declaration of 30 April 1997,

A. whereas President Lukashenko issued on 10 March 1997 a decree calling into question the tax exemptions granted to charitable organizations by a decision of the Belarus Council of Ministers of 28 October 1996, and whereas humanitarian relief organizations are hence regarded as commercial enterprises,

B. whereas the Belarus authorities have adopted two regulations (1672/12 and 1710/12 of December 1996), which are in clear contradiction to the constitution of Belarus, to the Belarus law on NGOs, as well as to international civil rights standards, and which subject the delivery of humanitarian aid to such restrictive conditions that make it virtually impossible for international relief organizations to forward any humanitarian aid to the victims of the Chernobyl disaster,

C. whereas shipments forwarding humanitarian aid to Belarus are systematically and arbitrarily retained at the Belarus borders, the non-governmental charitable organizations being asked to pay discriminative taxes and storage fees, and whereas huge amounts of food and medicines have perished as a result,

D. criticizing the fact that international NGOs are hindered in freely distributing humanitarian aid inside the country,

E. whereas the Belarus authorities are obstructing the work of the Belarus 'Children of Chernobyl' Foundation, which coordinates the work of more than 500 international and 72 national NGOs, trying to criminalize the organization using unfounded allegations and issuing arrest warrants for their project managers, who have therefore sought protection in Germany,

F. whereas the Belarus authorities illegally detained the director of the Soros Foundation and confiscated the bank accounts of the organization, thus forcing the foundation to stop its work in Belarus,

G. whereas the Lukashenko administration is hindering the work of non-governmental private organizations which organize rest stays abroad for affected children from radioactive zones, by denying the NGOs the right to choose by themselves the children to be sent abroad,

H. whereas local organizations have absolutely no means of forwarding any complaints against arbitrary prosecution and repression of the activists of the NGOs on account of the judiciary being influenced by the authorities, all mass media having been muzzled by the authorities, closure threats hanging over the few independent newspapers, and foreign correspondents being expelled from the country,
1. Calls on President Lukashenko to withdraw his decree of 10 March 1997 in order to re-establish the necessary working conditions for non-governmental humanitarian relief organizations, by implementing the Belarus Council of Ministers’ decision of 28 October 1996 granting tax exemption for charitable organizations;

2. Calls on the Belarus Government to cease immediately all intimidation measures against Belarus and Western non-governmental relief organizations, to allow their staff members to return to Belarus without any fear of prosecution and to continue their work without impediment and interference from the authorities;

3. Calls on the Belarus Government to grant free and unhindered access for humanitarian aid to the country and allow the non-governmental relief organizations to distribute humanitarian aid freely inside Belarus;

4. Requests the Belarus authorities to adopt a clear and coherent legal framework concerning the activities of non-governmental organizations in accordance with international standards, in order to prevent local and customs authorities arbitrarily taking discriminative measures against relief organizations;

5. Requests the Belarus authorities to withdraw their regulations 1672/12 and 1710/12 which violate the Belarus constitution and citizens’ rights, and to adopt new regulations with acceptable conditions based on international standards in order to make it possible for non-governmental organizations to continue their work in a normal way;

6. Requests the authorities to promote the organization of rest stays for children from radioactive zones instead of hindering such initiatives by denying the NGOs the right to select by themselves the children to be send abroad, and to stop interfering in the work of the NGOs;

7. Reiterates its position that any further cooperation between the European Union and Belarus cannot be achieved until clear steps towards respect for human rights and democratic and legal reforms are taken by the government of Belarus;

8. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Commission, the Council, the President and Government of Belarus and the democratically elected Parliament of Belarus.
15. Congo/Brazzaville

B4-0504 and 0536/97

Resolution on the situation in Congo-Brazzaville

The European Parliament,

A. having regard to the fighting in Brazzaville between the regular army, loyal to President Pascal Lissouba, and the militia of the former Head of State Denis Sossou-Nguesso, which has already resulted in several casualties,

B. whereas several countries have already begun to evacuate their citizens and France has sent 800 soldiers to reinforce its troops in Brazzaville to protect French citizens on Congolese territory, and to help with their evacuation,

C. whereas in 1995 a similar outbreak of violence caused some 2000 deaths,

D. disturbed by the threat of further destabilization in the region, already shaken by the conflict in the former Zaire,

1. Urges all the parties involved in the conflict to impose and respect a ceasefire as a matter of urgency;

2. Notes the attempted mediation by the President of Gabon, to which the parties to the conflict have responded favourably;

3. Calls on the OAU also to offer international mediation and calls on the Council actively to support such an initiative;

4. Believes that only the holding of free, democratic elections can guarantee the requisite legitimacy of the next Head of State and restore stability to the country;

5. Calls on the Council to push for measures at United Nations level to place the forthcoming elections under international control;

6. Calls on the Member States of the European Union to abstain from military intervention in the Congo until such time as they have obtained a UN mandate to intervene, except with the aim of protecting the safety of their citizens;

7. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council and Commission, the United Nations, the OAU, the co-Presidents of the ACP/EU Joint Assembly and the President and Government of Congo-Brazzaville.
16. CITES

B4-0473, 0478, 0479, 0506, 0516, 0532, 0545 and 0557/97

Resolution on the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES)

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the tenth Conference of the Parties to CITES from 9 to 20 June 1997 in Harare, Zimbabwe,

- having regard to Council Regulation (EC) No 338/97 of 9 December 1996(1) on the protection of species of wild fauna and flora by regulating trade therein,

- having regard to the highly critical report of the CITES Secretariat on the implementation of the convention within the European Union (Doc 9.23),

- having regard to Resolution Conf. 9.8 on enforcement,

- having regard to resolution 9.13 of the Parties to the 1994 CITES Conference on the conservation of tigers,

A. aware of the importance of a worldwide Convention for the regulation of trade in endangered species in order to avoid over-exploitation,

B. whereas it has not yet been possible to achieve for all the species concerned the general objective of the Convention, namely to limit the transfrontier trade in specimens of endangered species of fauna and flora to an environmentally acceptable level,

C. whereas the non-sustainable exploitation of wild species, the destruction of habitats and the illegal trade in endangered species are the main causes of the impoverishment of the Earth's biodiversity,

D. whereas a large part of the international trade in specimens of these species, valued at US$ 3 to 5 billion annually, takes place illegally,

E. whereas in the last fifty years three of the eight sub-species of tiger, the Bali, the Caspian and the Javan, have already been driven to extinction and the surviving populations of the species have declined sharply within the last five years, particularly in India, where two thirds of the remaining world tiger population live,

F. whereas China is the biggest producer of medicine derived from tiger body parts and a considerable amount of tiger medicine is still being sold in China; whereas all CITES parties, and especially range states, are urged to work with traditional medicines communities and carry out awareness campaigns to eliminate the consumption of tiger body parts and derivatives,

G. whereas despite the tiger being listed in Appendix I of CITES and international commercial trade in tiger parts and their derivatives being prohibited, illegal trade in tiger specimens has escalated,

H. whereas ultimately it is only the Parties to CITES which can stop the illegal trade in tigers and their parts and help conserve the world's remaining tigers,

(1) OJ L 61, 3.3.1997, p.1
I. whereas the elephant population of Africa has been severely diminished as a result of the extensive illegal hunting carried out with a view to supplying the main ivory markets of Europe, the United States and the Far East, despite the fact that all trade in elephant products was banned by the CITES Convention in 1989,

J. whereas in Harare a number of African countries intend to propose the removal of the ban on elephant products and to start trading in ivory in the near future,

K. whereas at the current tenth meeting of the Conference of Parties to CITES in Harare (Zimbabwe) various proposals are due to be discussed, the adoption or rejection of which will be significant for the further development of the Convention,

L. concerned that some of the proposals before the conference for downlisting certain populations of disputed species could lead to a revival of international trade and an increase in poaching in parts of their range,

M. having regard to the widespread criticism of the application of CITES in the European Union, which focused on the need to replace Regulation (EEC) No. 3626/82 on the implementation in the Community of the Convention on international trade in endangered species of wild fauna and flora(1),

N. welcoming the campaign which was launched by the Commission and the World Wide Fund for Nature to inform the European public about the new European Regulation to control trade in endangered species and to raise awareness of the importance of species conservation by regulating trade therein,

1. Calls on the Member States of the European Union to take the necessary measures to implement this new Regulation as soon and as effectively as possible; urges every Party to the Convention to establish adequate implementing and controlling authorities; requests every Party to increase penalties so that they are commensurate with the potential profits of illegal activities and act as an effective deterrent;

2. Calls on the parties to CITES to strengthen collaboration for the implementation of the Convention by exchanging know-how between the Parties and by providing additional financial support for training and technical assistance;

3. Calls on the states which have not yet acceded to the CITES Convention to do so without delay;

4. Calls on the Parties to CITES to introduce and implement appropriate measures in order to sanction those Parties which have not taken positive steps to establish adequate legislation for the implementation of CITES; proposes that where there is a territorial conflict between man and elephants, as where available farmland is being destroyed by elephants, national, regional and local authorities should solve these problems in an acceptable way;

5. Urges all CITES Parties, as a matter of urgency, to implement fully the recommendations adopted at the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties in Resolution Conf. 9.13 and to reaffirm their commitment to do so during the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties in Harare;

6. Urges all CITES parties to adopt legislation for the protection of all tiger subspecies and all tiger parts, products and derivatives including provision that any product claiming to contain tiger parts,

whether it does or not, is a recognisable tiger derivative and therefore subject to CITES Appendix I provisions;

7. Urges all CITES Parties to enact and implement comprehensive domestic trade prohibition for tiger products and tiger derivatives and significantly increase resources for enforcement of trade prohibition legislation;

8. Urges the Indian Prime Minister, at the re-convening of the Indian Board for Wildlife under his chairmanship, to enact an emergency action plan in cooperation with the Chief Ministers of the States;

9. Urges the parties not to accept the proposals from Botswana, Namibia and Zimbabwe to downlist the African elephant; is also against the downlisting proposed for South African white rhinos, South American vicunas and Cuban Caretta turtles;

10. Calls on the Presidency of the Council and the delegations of the Member States at the current tenth conference of the Parties to CITES in particular to achieve the goal of sustainable use of wild species of fauna and flora under the Convention solely through the adoption of ecologically based and precautionary criteria for the application of Article IV of the Convention;

11. Calls on the Presidency of the Council and the delegations of the Member States to support the adoption of Doc. 10.75 which would make it possible to implement the comprehensive measures to reduce mortality during transport of delicate species, measures which have been lacking since 1992 and which were supported again in resolution Conf. 9.23 (1994);

12. Requests the European Union to support community-based natural resource management, rural communities and sustainable use of these natural resources;

13. Calls on the Parties to CITES, the Commission and the Member States of the European Union to give their support to countries which have been able to improve the conservation status of species of wild fauna and flora;

14. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission and the Parties to CITES.
Proposed for a European Parliament and Council Decision establishing the Community action programme 'European voluntary service for young people' (COM(96)0610 - C4-0681/96 - 96/0318(COD))

The proposal was approved with the following amendments:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Text proposed by the Commission</th>
<th>Amendments by Parliament</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(Amendment 1)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Citation 4a (new)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Having regard to the declaration of the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission of 6 March 1995 on the incorporation of financial provisions into legislative acts(1).</td>
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<td>(Amendment 2)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Recital 6</td>
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<td>Whereas the Parliament has also expressed its support, on many occasions, for the development of a voluntary service at Community level, in particular in its Resolution of 22 September 1995 on the establishment of European civilian service(1);</td>
<td>Whereas the Parliament has also expressed its support, on many occasions, for the development of a voluntary service at Community level, in particular in its Resolution of 22 September 1995 on the establishment of European civilian service(1) and in its creation of a specific budget line during the 1996 procedure;</td>
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<td>(1) B4-1127/95 (PE 193.734).</td>
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<td>(Amendment 3)</td>
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<td>Recital 6a (new)</td>
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<td>Whereas European youth policy has now become closely linked with the European education policy incorporated in the Treaty; whereas it is necessary to develop it further;</td>
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(Amendment 4)
Recital 10a (new)

Whereas, according to the assessment of the pilot project, in order to launch a meaningful action the programme should be given an appropriate legal basis, in accordance with Article 22 of the Financial Regulation:

(Amendment 5)
Recital 12

Whereas this interim report already provides a basis for the programme's legal and financial structure, and a framework for its administrative management; and whereas the Commission will scrutinize the results of the pilot action at the half-way stage (second progress report) before taking full stock of the final results upon completion of the pilot action for the purpose of the discussions to be held as part of the co-decision procedure on the proposal for a decision and will, if need be, submit amendments to its proposal, particularly in relation to activities in non-EU countries;

(Amendment 6)
Recital 13

Whereas a number of legal obstacles stand in the way of the development of voluntary service; Whereas serious legal obstacles impede the transnational mobility of young people; whereas those obstacles must be eliminated by means of cooperation between all the Member States with a view to the definition of a status common to young volunteers working in the European civilian service and which provides in particular for the coordination of the social security and tax schemes applicable to the allowances and expenses that such young people receive during the period of their service for their travel, accommodation and subsistence;
Whereas the agreement concluded between Parliament and the Commission on commitology, referred to in Parliament's resolution of 24 October 1996 on the draft general budget of the European Communities for the financial year 1997 - Section III - Commission(1) includes an obligation for the Commission to keep Parliament fully abreast of the work of committees of the type provided for in Article 9 and to require all the members of such committees to sign a declaration that their membership of the committee is not incompatible with their personal interests;


Whereas participation in voluntary service activities by young people is an educational experience that may promote their integration into active life and promote awareness of genuine European citizenship;

Whereas the establishment of a European voluntary service must be carried out in conjunction with other Community schemes to benefit young people being developed under the 'Youth for Europe' programme; whereas it is therefore necessary to ensure that the separate and specific nature of the two programmes is maintained and, at the same time, to ensure close coordination in all areas where their activities may be suitably combined;
(Amendment 10)
Recital 15b (new)

Whereas a global European policy on youth must be defined; whereas, to that end, the Commission should be asked to submit its proposals to Parliament and the Council before the third phase of the 'Youth for Europe' programme and the first stage of the 'European voluntary service' programme finish so that either their respective fields of activity can be better defined or merged in a single consistent whole;

(Amendment 11)
Recital 21

Whereas European voluntary service activities are not a substitute for military service, for the alternative service formulae provided in particular for conscientious objectors or for the compulsory civilian service that exist in Member States and are not a substitute for potential or existing paid employment;

Whereas European voluntary service activities are not a substitute for military service, for the alternative service formulae provided in particular for conscientious objectors or for the compulsory civilian service that exist in Member States, and must not result in restricting potential or existing paid employment; whereas they must, nevertheless, be made compatible with national civilian services so that, if the Member States so wish, they can be progressively integrated into such services (thus conferring upon them a new transnational dimension) and be given the opportunity of using their material and organizational structures; whereas, with that aim in view, agreements could be concluded linking European voluntary service and national civilian services;

(Amendment 12)
Recital 27a (new)

Whereas support associations also have an important rôle to play so as to enable young people with the greatest difficulties to become involved in such programmes;
(Amendment 13)
Recital 29a (new)

Whereas the acquisition of active citizenship and of formative experience, and also the contribution of young people to cooperation between the Community and third countries, are important objectives of the "European voluntary service for young people" programme; whereas arrangements should be considered whereby young people who are nationals of third countries other than those referred to in the above recital would be able to take part in the activities stemming from this programme, both in their country of origin and within the European Union;

(Amendment 14)
Recital 29b (new)

Whereas the quality of voluntary service will depend to a large extent on linguistic and cultural preparation activities;

(Amendment 15)
Recital 33a (new)

Whereas European voluntary service represents an important development in the policies for the young people of Europe, which should continue to be extended in the near future;
2. This programme comes within the context of the general objectives of a cooperation policy in the youth field as set out in the programme Youth for Europe (Article 1, paragraph 2). It is intended, while respecting equal opportunities for men and women, to encourage mobility among young Europeans as part of an active citizenship, to give them the chance of an educational experience in a variety of sectors of activity, to promote their active contribution to the construction of Europe and cooperation between the European Community and third countries, through their participation in transnational activities of benefit to the community.

(Amendment 17)
Article 2(3)(d)

(d) to develop and support the preparation, particularly linguistic and intercultural, and the supervision of young volunteers, in particular long-term volunteers, "mentors" and European project leaders so that the young volunteers can benefit from high-quality actions connected with the objectives of the programme;

(Amendment 18)
Article 2(3)(ea) (new)

(ea) to provide post-activity follow-up in respect of young volunteers in order to ensure that the experience acquired does not go to waste;
Article 2a

Voluntary service for developing countries

The Commission and the Member States shall take the necessary measures to ensure that the programme:
- represents a real transfer of expertise to the countries concerned;
- corresponds to the objectives and scope of the EU's cooperation with the developing countries, as defined in the relevant regulations, conventions and cooperation agreements;
- is open to volunteers up to 29 years of age;
- includes, in the case of developing countries, long-term projects extending over a period of 6 to 12 months, with the possibility of an extension to 24 months in special cases.

Article 3(1)

1. The financial framework for the implementation of the programme during the period 1998-1999 shall be ECU 60 million, in keeping with current financial perspectives. Proposals shall be put forward in accordance with the procedure set out in Article 10 in order to determine the financial framework for the final three years of the programme (2000-2002).
(Amendment 21)
Article 4(2a) (new)

2a. An assessment shall be carried out each year, in association with the social partners and support associations in particular, in order to identify the obstacles which prevent young people with the greatest difficulties from taking part in the programmes.

(Amendment 22)
Article 4(2b) (new)

2b. Member States shall ensure that the host organizations, be they community or institutional in nature, provide for the effective integration of young volunteers. This calls for a strict selection procedure which nonetheless takes into account the specific characteristics of the host countries.

(Amendment 23)
Article 4(2c) (new)

2c. The Commission and the Member States shall ensure that consideration is given to the possibility of involving young nationals and residents of third countries in the activities taking place in those countries.

They shall also undertake to consider ways in which nationals from third countries could participate in projects taking place within the European Union.

(Amendment 24)
Article 4(2d) (new)

2d. Efforts shall be made to ensure that the number of young people involved increases exponentially (at a minimum rate of 10% per year), so as to achieve the multiplier effect which is one of the objectives of the programme.
(Amendment 25)  
Article 4(2e) (new)  

2e. The Commission, the Member States and the associated countries shall ensure that the young people taking part in the action programmes receive sufficient linguistic and cultural preparation to enable them to fit into their host environment.

(Amendment 26)  
Article 6(1)  

1. The Commission and the Member States shall ensure that the programme is compatible with and complementary to other actions undertaken for young people by the Member States and the Community.

(Amendment 27)  
Article 6(2a) (new)  

2a. They shall at the same time promote cooperation with non-governmental organizations in civilian society active in the youth field and in the social, environmental and cultural fields and that of the fight against the various forms of exclusion.

(Amendment 28)  
Article 7(1)  

1. The Commission and the Member States shall take the necessary measures to develop the structures set up at European, national, regional and local level for achieving the objectives of the programme, for facilitating the access of young people and other partners at local level to the programme, for evaluating and monitoring the actions set out in the programme and for applying consultation and selection mechanisms. They shall ensure that volunteers are properly informed and made aware of their rights and obligations at European, national and local level.
The Member States shall take all the measures required to ensure coordination between the European voluntary service and existing civilian services at national level by facilitating the access of young European volunteers to national infrastructures and by contributing actively to the requisite synergy between transnational activities and national voluntary schemes.

(Amendment 29)
Article 7(2)

2. Each Member State shall endeavour to adopt the measures necessary to ensure that the young people participating in the programme do not encounter obstacles, especially as regards the right of residence in the host Member State for the period of the voluntary service and the maintenance of their entitlements, in particular those linked to their social protection.

The Commission shall submit proposals with a view to introducing a European statute for young volunteers which will provide a specific legal framework recognized both in the countries of origin and in the host countries, so as to ensure that volunteers enjoy the same mobility as other EU citizens.

(Amendment 30)
Article 9(1)

1. The Commission shall implement this programme in accordance with this Decision.

1. The Commission shall implement this programme in accordance with this Decision. It shall take all the measures required to guarantee the quality of the European voluntary service, in particular by establishing criteria for the selection of projects and the transparency of procedures for the implementation of the programme.
(Amendment 31)
Article 9(2)

2. In the performance of this task, the Commission shall be assisted by a committee composed of two representatives appointed by each Member State and chaired by the representative of the Commission.

2. In the performance of this task, the Commission shall be assisted by an advisory committee composed of one representative appointed by each Member State and chaired by the representative of the Commission.

(Amendment 34)
Article 9 (4), 1st subparagraph a (new)

The Commission shall keep the European Parliament informed of the work of the Committee and make available to Parliament, in sufficiently good time, the annotated agendas of all meetings of management and regulatory committees; the Commission shall inform Parliament of the result of the opinions delivered by the Committee. The Commission shall require all members of the Committee other than civil servants to sign, upon appointment, a declaration that there is no conflict between their membership of the committee concerned and their personal interests.

(Amendment 32)
Article 9(4), second subparagraph, introduction

The Commission shall adopt measures which shall apply immediately. However, if these measures are not in accordance with the opinion of the committee, they shall be communicated by the Commission to the Council forthwith. In that event:

The Commission shall adopt measures which shall apply immediately. However, if these measures are not in accordance with the opinion of the committee, they shall be communicated by the Commission to the Council and Parliament forthwith. In that event, and provided that these measures are consistent with the joint legislative powers of Parliament and the Council as regards the Decision itself and its annexes which have been dealt with under the codecision procedure:
(Amendment 33)
Article 9(4), second subparagraph (b)

b) the Council, acting by a qualified majority, may take a different decision within the time limit referred to in point a).

b) the Council, acting by a qualified majority, may take a different decision within the time limit referred to in point a), and Parliament shall be informed thereof by the Commission.

(Amendment 35)
Article 9(5)

5. The Commission may consult the committee on any other matters relating to the implementation of this programme.

5. The Commission may consult the committee on any other matters relating to the implementation of this programme, with the exception of the financial arrangements referred to in Article 3 and Article 10(2) and (3).

(Amendment 36)
Article 10(2)

2. During the course of the second year of this programme, the Commission shall present to the European Parliament and to the Council an evaluation report which will serve to define any new implementing guidelines and methods, and a new budget framework for the final three years of the programme.

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(Amendment 37)
Article 10(3a) (new)

3a. With a view to the conclusion of the third phase of the 'Youth for Europe' programme on 31 December 1999 and the first phase of implementation of the 'European voluntary service for young people' programme, the Commission shall submit to the European Parliament and the Council, before 31 December 1998, a report setting out its views on the main guidelines for European policy to assist young people in the run-up to the year 2000.
(Amendment 38)
Article 10(3b) (new)

3b. Similarly, after consideration of the report provided for in paragraph 2, Parliament and the Council shall be able to determine, in accordance with the procedure provided for in Article 189b of the Treaty, a possible supplementary budgetary framework.

(Amendment 39)
ANNEX, SECTION 1(1)

1. The Community shall support long-term (in principle for six months to one year) and short-term (in principle from three weeks to three months) transnational projects allowing young people - aged between 18 and 25 - resident in a Member State to play an active part in activities which help to meet the needs of society in a wide range of fields (social, environmental, cultural, etc.) and which are likely to have a direct impact on the well-being of the populations of the host communities. The aim of these projects shall be to provide young people from the Union with an educational experience and to bring them into contact with other cultures and experience new ideas and projects in an intercultural context.

1. The Community shall support long-term (in principle for six months to one year) and short-term (in principle from three weeks to three months) transnational projects allowing young people - as a priority, those aged between 18 and 25, although the possibility, in certain cases, of considering applications from young people up to the age of 29 should not be excluded - who are resident in a Member State to play an active part in activities which help to meet the needs of society in a wide range of fields (social, environmental, cultural, etc.) and which are likely to have a direct impact on the well-being of the populations of the host communities. The aim of these projects shall be to provide young people from the Union with an educational experience and to bring them into contact with other cultures and experience new ideas and projects in an intercultural context.
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Legislative resolution embodying Parliament's opinion on the proposal for a European Parliament and Council Decision establishing the Community action programme 'European voluntary service for young people' (COM(96)0610 - C4-0681/96 - 96/0318(COD))

(Codecision procedure: first reading)

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the Commission proposal to Parliament and the Council, COM(96)0610 - 96/0318(COD),

- having regard to Articles 189b(2) and 126 of the EC Treaty, pursuant to which the Commission submitted the proposal to Parliament (C4-0681/96),

- having regard to Rule 58 of its Rules of Procedure,

- having regard to the report of the Committee on Culture, Youth, Education and the Media and the opinions of the Committee on Budgets and the Committee on Development and Cooperation (A4-0182/97),

1. Approves the Commission proposal, subject to Parliament's amendments;

2. Calls on the Commission to alter its proposal accordingly, pursuant to Article 189a(2) of the EC Treaty;

3. Calls on the Council to incorporate Parliament's amendments in the common position that it adopts in accordance with Article 189b(2) of the EC Treaty;

4. Points out that the Commission is required to submit to Parliament any modification it may intend to make to its proposal as amended by Parliament;

5. Instructs its President to forward this opinion to the Council and Commission.
18. Equal pay for women and men

A4-0143/97

Resolution on the Commission communication - A code of practice on the implementation of equal pay for work of equal value for women and men (COM(96)0336 - C4-0460/96)

The European Parliament,

- having regard to Article 119 of the EC Treaty and Article 6 of the Agreement on social policy concluded between the Member States of the European Community with the exception of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland,

- having regard to Directive 75/117/EEC on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to the application of the principle of equal pay for men and women (1),

- having regard to the Commission's communication on a code of practice on the implementation of equal pay for work of equal value for women and men (COM(96)0336 - C4-0460/96),

- having regard to the Commission's memorandum on equal pay for work of equal value (COM(94)0006),

- having regard to its resolution of 13 February 1996 on the memorandum on equal pay for work of equal value (2),

- having regard to the report of the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs and the opinion of the Committee on Women's Rights (A4-0143/97),

A. whereas despite the existence since 1975 of the Equal Pay Directive the principle of equal pay for work of equal value continues not to be fully respected, as demonstrated by the continuing pay gap between men and women, a gap which has worsened during the recession,

B. whereas the continuing existence of pay inequality shows that legislation by itself is not necessarily always a sufficient instrument in tackling a problem or establishing a principle or minimum standard,

C. whereas the code of practice put forward by the Commission is a concrete and practical measure designed to tackle some of the insufficiencies of equal pay legislation by assisting those involved in establishing pay systems to respect better the equal pay principle,

D. whereas if the code of practice is taken into account and applied by governments, employers and employee representatives it should help to reduce pay inequalities between women and men,

E. whereas the code is unlikely to remove pay inequalities altogether since they persist as a result of continuing occupational segregation, both horizontal and vertical, in the labour market as evidenced by the over-representation of women in the low-paid sector; whereas more radical action is needed to restructure the labour market to remove such segregation,

(2) OJ C 65, 4.3.1996, p. 43.
F. whereas the pay gap between women and men is not helped by the fact that large numbers of women are trapped in 'atypical' employment contracts; whereas their position would be improved if the negotiations currently taking place between the social partners on atypical work were to lead to a Community-wide agreement or legal instrument which improved in a substantial way the contractual rights of atypical workers,

G. whereas in most cases the increase in decentralised wage bargaining has exacerbated unequal pay because women are less likely than men to be employed in companies and sectors where there are possibilities for productivity-related pay bargaining,

1. Welcomes the proposal for a code of practice, which in many respects follows the recommendations put forward by the Parliament; is convinced that the code could make a major contribution towards creating a more gender-neutral job classification and job evaluation system and could serve as an instrument to remove unfair wage elements such as unjustified bonuses and benefits not justified by job demands and work contributions; is further satisfied that the code of practice is considered as a practical tool for social partners and that they have been consulted throughout;

2. Stresses that the code of practice should apply to all employees (including apprentices and those working from home) whether on full-time, part-time, casual or temporary contracts, regardless of length of service;

3. Is convinced that an awareness and information campaign, targeted among others at the social partners and their representatives, is a vital step in efforts to reduce current wage differentials, many of which originate in gender-biased misconceptions of work content and work contributions; reminds the Commission and in particular the social partners that the code must be widely distributed to all levels involved in wage settlements to be effective; underlines that a special effort must be undertaken to disseminate the information to medium-sized and small enterprises and those employment groups which are female-dominated and to those in employment dominated by part-time, atypical work patterns and not by full-time and permanent employment;

4. Calls on the Commission to provide information, training and guidance for the social partners and their representatives involved in decisions about pay and benefits;

5. Agrees with the Commission that governments, in implementing the code with respect to the public sector, can play an important role in setting an example on how to apply the principle of equal pay for work of equal value; notes however that cutbacks in public spending may impact negatively on the value given to many jobs in healthcare, education, childcare and care of the elderly, and restrict the availability of accessible, good-quality care services on which many women and men depend;

6. Stresses that the first requirement to putting the code into practice is job evaluation but that job evaluation systems must be carefully constructed to ensure that they detect discrimination rather than perpetuate it; points out that to avoid gender-biased job evaluation the factors used to compare jobs must be those that reflect the value of both male and female work; insists that it is crucial to ensure the consultation and participation of workers, particularly female workers, when drawing up and applying job evaluation systems;

7. Calls on the Commission to undertake research on 'gender-free' job evaluation schemes and to prepare model job evaluation guidelines for use as a benchmark by the social partners;
8. Believes that further efforts should have been made to make a clear distinction between wage components which have their origin in societal developments and those which are mainly bound to wage settlements at the level of enterprises or firms, where gender-biased arguments are more easily introduced in wages;

9. Is somewhat worried that overly general descriptions of work demands and requirements have been introduced in the code, thus enabling wage negotiators to deviate from a gender-neutral description and consequently to settle on wages which are not transparent; transparency and access to information on these elements remain the most efficient tool for negotiations and comparisons;

10. Envisages that the implementation of this code of practice will be taken into account in disputes concerning the burden of proof in cases of discrimination based on sex; calls on the Commission and the Council to give early approval to the Directive on the burden of proof and, in so doing, to take account of the opinion of the European Parliament;

11. Urges the social partners, since it is principally through the collective bargaining process that equal pay for work of equal value will be established, to take all measures necessary to ensure that pay agreements respect non-discriminatory principles and to subject these collective bargaining processes to careful and regular review to avoid discrimination reappearing in remuneration systems in the future;

12. Considers it essential, if pay discrimination is to be eliminated, that women be involved in the collective bargaining process; calls on the social partners to demonstrate the steps they have taken to increase female representation and participation in their respective organisations and negotiating bodies;

13. Believes that the formulation of job evaluation systems and the application of the principle of equal pay for work of equal value through the collective bargaining process require detailed training and proper access to expert advice for those involved, including workers themselves; calls on the Commission to compile a database of experts and organizations in all the Member States able to give advice to employers and employees and their representatives on equal pay for work of equal value and to promote and encourage such expertise;

14. Believes that transparency both in job evaluation and collective bargaining is an essential prerequisite in any policy aimed at securing the principle of equal pay for work of equal value, and calls on Member States and the Commission to improve the availability of clear and up-to-date statistics on wage levels, especially at sectoral and inter-sectoral levels;

15. Calls on the Commission in monitoring the application of the code to collect examples of good or innovative practice and to facilitate their exchange and promotion as effectively as possible;

16. Calls on the Commission to monitor the implementation of the code of practice and, if in three years the measure has not resulted in the desired narrowing of the pay differential, to consider making the code of practice into a legally binding instrument; takes the view that, throughout the follow-up period, the code must recommend to employers and negotiators positive measures to benefit women who have suffered from discrimination;

17. Refers to the continuing unequal division between men and women of tasks involving care, which directly influences the professional activities of women and which must be considered to be one of the root causes of segregation on the labour market and therefore as regards pay;
18. Expresses the hope once again that, pursuant to the case-law of the European Court of Justice, Article 119 will be expanded in the new Treaty in such a way that the right to equal pay for work of equal value is enshrined therein;

19. Refers to the judgments of the European Court of Justice which lay down that equal pay for work of equal value must be achieved not only within a certain branch of industry but also beyond the boundaries of the various branches of industry; calls on the social partners and the competent authorities to ensure that this also happens in practice;

20. Calls on the Member States to set up a network of experts who will verify compliance with the legislation on remuneration, and to provide for procedures and penalties which will ensure that it is applied in practice;

21. Takes the view that it is very important for women to have better access to vocational training and to refresher courses and in-service training;

22. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the Economic and Social Committee and the European social partners.
19. New information and communications technologies

A4-0153/97

Resolution on the development and application of new information and communications technologies in the next decade

The European Parliament,

- having regard to Rule 148 of its Rules of Procedure,

- having regard to its resolution of 19 September 1996 on "Europe and the global information society - Recommendations to the European Council" and on a communication from the Commission of the European Communities: "Europe's way to the information society: an action plan" (1),

- having regard to its resolution of 28 November 1996 on prospects for European science and technology policy in the 21st century (2),

- having regard to the Green Paper on innovation (COM(95)0688),

- having regard to the report of the Committee on Research, Technological Development and Energy (A4-0153/97),

A. whereas, to secure a competitive position on the global information and communications technologies (ICT) market, the European Union's industrial policy should focus on knowledge- and capital-intensive activities and products,

B. whereas it has also emerged from research that the ICT sector is developing faster in the US and in South-East Asia than in Europe,

C. whereas the 1998 US federal R&D budget for computing and communication R&D will increase by 10% while the overall R&D budget increase will be of 2.2%,

D. whereas the lack of a uniform and homogenous internal European market is threatening to put a brake on the development of the European ICT industry,

E. whereas it is difficult for new and expanding ICT firms in the European Union to attract venture capital,

F. whereas, according to recent assessments of RTD programmes in the ICT sector, the effectiveness of European Union's policy in the ICT sector is not being maximized because of the limited funding available and the lack of flexibility within what are time-consuming procedures,

I. Considers, having regard to the present situation of the European ICT sector, that the Member States must make greater efforts to coordinate their national ICT policies, in the framework of Community decision-making, with a view to promoting the establishment of single European ICT market, in particular as regards the laying down of rules on standards, trade marks and patents and interoperability of ICT infrastructure so that European products and services are compatible and interoperable within the European Union and globally;

2. Calls for speedier, more efficient and easier processing of Community trade marks by the Alicante agreement and increased efficiency and reduction of the cost of filing patents by the European Patent Office so as to encourage more patenting, especially by SMEs;

3. Calls for speedier efforts to be made concerning research, development and definition of Community standards, in particular in the area of data traffic security (encryption), financial transactions and privacy;

4. Calls on the European Union and the Member States to establish promptly a regulatory framework which, in particular, strengthens the operations of the free market forces; action needs to be taken to prevent developments being curbed by a lack of legal certainty;

5. Asks the Commission to take note of the increasing prospects of digital piracy that ICTs enable, and to provide information on the means of protection of digital information; calls on the Commission to raise the awareness of these issues to companies, especially SMEs wishing to trade electronically;

6. Calls on the European Union and the Member States to facilitate the development of a widely accessible delivery infrastructure for ICT-related applications and services, as such an infrastructure is a precondition for the wide diffusion of these services; and takes the view that, in the light of the increasing convergence of telecommunications and computing, convergence must be reflected also in European rule-making so that interconnectivity of the various technologies is not hampered; straightforward and user-friendly interfaces must be developed;

7. Calls on the Commission to prepare measures now which can enhance the operation of the internal market after 1998: account needs expressly to be taken of Internet capabilities both for the further development of the SME sector and the development of market segments such as electronic commerce, education, the environment, health care, and the like;

8. Calls on the Commission and the Member States to develop a new ICT policy which is in keeping with the opportunities offered by the various ICT segments and leads to a better balance between technology, on the one hand, and applications and content on the other, which would reinforce European capability;

9. Calls for a policy which encourages networking and clustering; calls also for a policy which allows better coordination of various EU policy instruments;

10. Calls on the Commission to ensure that projects involving the use of ICT and installation of ICT infrastructure in the most disadvantaged regions are given priority in the cohesion policy and through the Structural Funds;

11. Calls on the European Union and the Member States to pursue a European ICT policy geared not only to large firms but also to SMEs which should receive more technical assistance through the various programmes and the Structural Funds; SMEs also need to have greater input in shaping and implementing RTD policy;

12. Urges the Commission and the Member States to encourage European companies to use ICT applications and services which aim to promote the European cultural, artistic, historical and linguistic heritage;

13. Notes that, in its proposal for the Fifth Framework Programme, the Commission earmarks 28% of the total financial package for the information society; points out that Parliament will decide later, under the codecision procedure, on the suitability of this proposal;
14. Takes the view that in the Fifth Framework Programme in particular, there must be better apportionment of efforts and resources between basic technologies, systems and applications; the balance between technology and content needs to be improved;

15. Points out that there are no automatic links between R&D efforts, R&D results and economic results; existing and future R&D programmes need to be analysed to establish what they have and have not achieved (in terms of economic successes); such analyses, operated through clear procedures, should result in enhanced control of research programmes and should provide 'best practices' for future R&D programmes;

16. Takes the view that Europe's ICT policy must devote more attention to voice and language technology in order to turn existing know-how and experience of multilingualism into a global competitive advantage;

17. Calls on the Commission and the Member States to slash red tape, procedures and overheads surrounding EU RTD programmes; payments need to be made faster and programmes themselves need to be less detailed;

18. Calls on the Member States to have their public sectors make maximum use of ICT and ICT capabilities when performing their tasks and communicating with the public; to create conditions to improve the return on R&D efforts, local, regional, national and European authorities need to act as 'leading consumers' or 'launching customers' for products and services derived from R&D efforts; such authorities can bring their considerable influence to bear on market segments such as health care, policy on the elderly, traffic, transport and education in order to encourage the use of ICT;

19. Calls on the Member States to disseminate widely information on the availability of government electronic services so as to encourage their take-up;

20. Calls on the Commission to ensure that there is sufficient body of reliable statistical data concerning industry and marketplace trends;

21. Calls on local, regional and national authorities to take the initiative and incorporate ICT into their own services and thereby encourage the private sector to do so by their example; calls on the Commission to take practical measures to encourage such initiatives in the light of the example set by many local and regional authorities and bodies cooperating at inter-regional and cross-border level, which already successfully apply the benefits of ICT and link up their services to information networks;

22. Calls on the Member States to implement information technology applications (multimedia products) speedily in ordinary education; special programmes need to be launched to teach teachers how to handle new techniques; projects which have been launched so as to stimulate the use of ICT applications in education need to be vigorously continued, which will encourage educational publishers to develop more multimedia educational software; asks for an interinstitutional debate on whether the above should in future integrate regional fund actions;

23. Is of the opinion that the increasing ageing of the population in the European Union opens up considerable prospects for the ICT industry in that senior citizens will account for a large proportion of market demand; calls therefore on the Commission to draw up a research, development and implementation programme on ICT and ageing;
24. Considers that information about the capabilities of new ICTs should be more directly accessible to private individuals and calls on the Commission in cooperation with the Member States to recognize and step up the benefits of utilizing ICT capabilities, so as to create support for ICT among EU citizens; only emotional involvement can bring technical achievements to life;

25. With regard to the so-called millennium time bomb, when computers' internal clocks are expected to fail to recognise the year 2000, asks the Commission to undertake world-wide consultation with the ICT industry about a possible universal solution to the problem, and inform Parliament about its results, taking into account that the costs of this operation should be bearable for existing computer users;

26. Takes the view that growth must be qualitative as well as quantitative in nature; a European ICT policy needs therefore to be based not only on economic growth, but also, and in particular, on sustainable and ecological development and social prosperity;

27. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Commission, the Council and the governments and parliaments of the Member States.
20. Research and sustainable development

A4-0170/97

Resolution on the Community policy for research and sustainable development

The European Parliament,

- having regard to its resolutions, opinions and decisions of:
  - 13 June 1991, on energy and the environment,(1)
  - 17 September 1992, on Europe's response to the challenge of modern technology,(3)
  - 17 November 1992, on a Community programme of Policy and Action in relation to the Environment and Sustainable Development,(4)
  - 19 January 1993, on the promotion of renewable forms of energy,(5)
  - 25 June 1993, on the conclusion of the framework Convention on Climate Change,(6)
  - 2 December 1993, on the broad guidelines of the economic policies of the Member States and of the Community,(7)
  - 9 March 1994, on the Commission White Paper on Growth, Competitiveness and Employment,(8)
  - 11 March 1994, on the demographic situation and development,(9)
  - 20 April 1994, on the Fourth Framework Programme of European Economic Community activities in the field of research, technological development and demonstration, 1994-1998,(10)
  - 7 April 1995, on the implementation of the broad economic policy guidelines,(11)
  - 10 October 1995, on the Green Paper "For a European Union energy policy",(12)
  - 11 October 1995, on a Commission communication to the Council and the European Parliament on directions for the EU on environmental indicators and green national accounting – the integration of environmental and economic information systems,(14)
  - 6 June 1996, on the Green Paper on Innovation,(15)

(12) OJ C 287, 30.10.1995, p. 34.
• 13 November 1996, on the review of the European Community programme on policy and action in relation to the environment and sustainable development, "Towards Sustainability"(ⅰ),

- having regard to Rule 148 of its Rules of Procedure,

- having regard to the report of the Committee on Research, Technological Development and Energy (A4-0382/96),

- having regard to the second report of the Committee on Research, Technological Development and Energy (A4-0170/97)),

A. whereas since the Second World War science, in the form of R&D, has been an essential factor of economic growth, reducing the time between the design of a new product and its appearance on the market,

B. whereas to solve the problems posed by the present economic growth model, dominated by market forces which intensively consume natural resources, there is a need to adopt a sustainable development (SD) model guided by the principles of solidarity between generations and nature conservancy, based on the crucial role of R&D,

C. deploring the fact that the EU Treaty lays down provisions for the environmental field without establishing a much-needed Community energy policy; also deploring the fact that international competitiveness is the declared aim of R&D policy while concern for the environment has not been given sufficient attention,

1. Notes that in the present economic growth model growing technical innovation may on the one hand result in job losses by automating monotonous and limited work, but on the other hand create a number of jobs in other sectors;

2. Takes the view that technological innovation can help solve environmental problems by making more efficient use of raw materials and energy and avoiding the emission of pollutants;

3. Considers that to achieve this objective of sustainable development, the R&D effort must address the following subjects, among others: (a) analysis of the growing interconnection between the social and economic processes and the natural environment; (b) designing new processes for using raw materials and energy, manufacturing goods and recycling products that will reduce the adverse effects of the present economic growth model;

4. Considers that the social and cultural environment should exert a fundamental influence on transition from the model of consumption of increasingly ephemeral goods to one which encourages the use of durable, robust, recyclable and biodegradable goods;

5. Calls on the Commission to incorporate in all the programmes financed by the EU, especially the Fifth Framework Programme, the SD criteria as guiding references for R&TD activities and takes the view that growth must be sustainable in nature; European R&D policy needs therefore to be based not only on economic growth, but also, and in particular, on what is ecologically and socially sustainable;

6. Confirms that an essential element of the SD model must derive from the global options which society chooses with regard to energy, the encouragement of renewable resources and heat recovery from non-recyclable waste;

7. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council and Commission.
21. Humane trapping standards

A4-0187/97

Resolution on the signing and conclusion of an international agreement between the European Community, Canada and the Russian Federation on humane trapping standards

The European Parliament,

- having regard to Rule 90(5) of its Rules of Procedure,
- having regard to its resolution of 21 February 1997 on leghold traps(1),
- having regard to Council Regulation (EEC) No. 3254/91 of 4 November 1991 prohibiting the use of leghold traps in the Community and the introduction into the Community of pelts and manufactured goods of certain wild animal species originating in countries which catch them by means of leghold traps or trapping methods which do not meet international humane trapping standards(2),
- having regard to the Commission proposal for a Council Regulation amending Regulation 3254/91 (COM(95)0737 - 95/0357(SYN))(3),
- having regard to its opinion of 19 June 1996 on this proposal(4),
- having regard to the report of the Working Group on the Development of International Humane Trapping Standards submitted on 20 June 1996,
- having regard to decisions made at the Environment Council meetings in June and December 1996 and in March 1997,
- having regard to the ongoing negotiations on a proposal for a Council Decision concerning the signing and conclusion of an international agreement between the European Community, Canada and the Russian Federation on humane trapping standards (COM(97)0017),
- having regard to the report of the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection (A4-0187/97),

1. Regrets that more than 16 months after the import ban specified under Regulation 3254/91 should have come into force and four months after the original deadline set by the Council to conclude negotiations with third countries, the proposed agreement fails to offer satisfactory solutions both in terms of animal protection and trade;

2. Deplores the fact that the proposed agreement permits the continued use of all leghold traps in third countries for at least another four years and may allow some types of leghold trap to be classified as humane;

(1) OJ C 85, 17.3.1997, p. 188.
3. Regrets that with regard to the welfare and selectivity of trapped species, the proposed agreement negotiated by the Commission substantially fails to reflect the position of the EU’s own scientific experts;

4. Notes that no agreement has been reached with the United States;

5. Calls on the Council and the Commission to:

   (a) reject the proposed agreement as totally inadequate and ineffective,

   (b) implement the import ban without further delay,

   (c) continue negotiations with third countries in order to establish a comprehensive agreement which will achieve the prohibition of all leghold traps within a rapid and fixed timescale, will require killing traps to be effective within 30 seconds, will ensure the use of selective trapping methods, has adequate means of enforcement without derogations and provides for the involvement of representatives of indigenous peoples and international animal welfare organizations in the negotiations with consultative status,

   (d) ensure that the rights of indigenous peoples are guaranteed by including special paragraphs on indigenous peoples which take account of their interests;

6. Condemns the fact that the legally binding four-year timetable for the total ban of conventional steel-jaw leghold traps in Annex 1, art. 4.2 of the draft agreement of 24 January 1997 (COM(97)0017) has been withdrawn in the version of 21 May 1997;

7. Requests its President to reconsider his decision of 20 September 1996 not to take action for the time being against the Commission in accordance with Article 175 of the EC Treaty;

8. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council and the Commission.