

# EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

1999



2004

---

*Session document*

FINAL  
**A5-0396/2003**

6 November 2003

## **\*\*\*|** **REPORT**

on the proposal for a decision of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a Community action programme to promote organisations active at European level in the field of equality between men and women (COM(2003) 279 – C5-0261/2003 – 2003/0109(COD))

Committee on Women's Rights and Equal Opportunities

Rapporteur: Rodi Kratsa-Tsagaropoulou

Draftsman (\*):  
Barbara Dührkop Dührkop, Committee on Budgets

(\*): Enhanced cooperation between committees

### ***Symbols for procedures***

- \* Consultation procedure  
*majority of the votes cast*
- \*\*I Cooperation procedure (first reading)  
*majority of the votes cast*
- \*\*II Cooperation procedure (second reading)  
*majority of the votes cast, to approve the common position  
majority of Parliament's component Members, to reject or amend  
the common position*
- \*\*\* Assent procedure  
*majority of Parliament's component Members except in cases  
covered by Articles 105, 107, 161 and 300 of the EC Treaty and  
Article 7 of the EU Treaty*
- \*\*\*I Codecision procedure (first reading)  
*majority of the votes cast*
- \*\*\*II Codecision procedure (second reading)  
*majority of the votes cast, to approve the common position  
majority of Parliament's component Members, to reject or amend  
the common position*
- \*\*\*III Codecision procedure (third reading)  
*majority of the votes cast, to approve the joint text*

(The type of procedure depends on the legal basis proposed by the Commission)

### ***Amendments to a legislative text***

In amendments by Parliament, amended text is highlighted in ***bold italics***. Highlighting in *normal italics* is an indication for the relevant departments showing parts of the legislative text for which a correction is proposed, to assist preparation of the final text (for instance, obvious errors or omissions in a given language version). These suggested corrections are subject to the agreement of the departments concerned.

## CONTENTS

	<b>Page</b>
PROCEDURAL PAGE .....	4
DRAFT EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION .....	5
FINANCIAL STATEMENT .....	14
OPINION OF THE COMMITTEE ON BUDGETS(*).....	16

(\*) Enhanced cooperation between committees - Rule 162a

## PROCEDURAL PAGE

By letter of 28 May 2003 the Commission submitted to Parliament, pursuant to Articles 13(2) and 251 of the EC Treaty, the proposal for a decision of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a Community action programme to promote organisations active at European level in the field of equality between men and women (COM(2003) 279 – 2003/0109(COD)).

At the sitting of 19 June 2003 the President of Parliament announced that he had referred the proposal to the Committee on Women's Rights and Equal Opportunities as the committee responsible and to the Committee on Budgets and the Committee on Budgetary Control for their opinions (C5-0261/2003).

At the sitting of 25 September 2003 the President announced that the Committee on Budgets, which had been asked for its opinion, would be associated with the drawing-up of the report pursuant to Rule 162a.

The Committee on Women's Rights and Equal Opportunities appointed Rodi Kratsa-Tsagaropoulou rapporteur at its meeting of 10 July 2003.

The committee considered the Commission proposal and draft report at its meetings of 11 September, 2 October and 3 November 2003.

At the last meeting it adopted the draft legislative resolution by 8 votes to 4 with 2 abstentions.

The following were present for the vote: Marianne Eriksson, (acting chairwoman); Olga Zrihen Zaari and Jillian Evans (vice-presidents); Rodi Kratsa-Tsagaropoulou (rapporteur); Ulla Maija Aaltonen, Armonia Bordes, Lissy Gröner, Astrid Lulling, Maria Martens, Christa Prets, Miet Smet, Sabine Zissener, Chantal Cauquil (for Geneviève Fraisse, pursuant to Rule 153(2)), and Bárbara Dührkop Dührkop (for Elena Valenciano Martínez-Orozco, pursuant to Rule 153(2)).

The opinion of the Committee on Budgets is attached. The Committee on Budgetary Control decided on 8 September 2003 not to deliver an opinion.

The report was tabled on 6 November 2003.

## DRAFT EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION

on the proposal for a decision of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a Community action programme to promote organisations active at European level in the field of equality between men and women  
(COM(2003) 279 – C5-0261/2003 – 2003/0109(COD))

(Codecision procedure: first reading)

*The European Parliament,*

- having regard to the Commission proposal to the European Parliament and the Council (COM(2003) 279)<sup>1</sup>,
  - having regard to Article 13(2) and Article 251 of the EC Treaty, pursuant to which the Commission submitted the proposal to Parliament (C5-0261/2003),
  - having regard to Rule 67 of its Rules of Procedure,
  - having regard to the report of the Committee on Women's Rights and Equal Opportunities and the opinion of the Committee on Budgets (A5-0396/2003),
1. Approves the Commission proposal as amended;
  2. Considers that the financial statement of the Commission proposal as amended is compatible with the ceiling of heading 5 of the financial perspective for 2000-2006;
  3. Calls on the Commission to refer the matter to Parliament again if it intends to amend the proposal substantially or replace it with another text;
  4. Instructs its President to forward its position to the Council and Commission.

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendments by Parliament

Amendment 1  
Recital 12

(12) Consequently, a structured programme should be adopted to provide financial assistance to such organisations in the form of an operating grant and to certain actions.

(12) Consequently, a structured programme should be adopted to provide financial assistance to such organisations in the form of an operating grant and to certain actions ***pursuing an aim of general European interest in the field of equality between men and women.***

<sup>1</sup> OJ not yet published.

*Justification*

*These actions must fit in with an aim of general European interest in the field of equality between men and women.*

Amendment 2  
Article 1, paragraph 1

1. A Community Action Programme to provide support for the European Women's Lobby and other organisations active at European level in the field of equality between men and women **is established.**

1. ***This Decision establishes a*** Community Action Programme to provide support for the European Women's Lobby and ***promote*** other organisations active at European level in the field of equality between men and women.

*Justification*

*It is important that the work of these other organisations should also be encouraged.*

Amendment 3  
Article 1, paragraph 2, point (b)

b) its activities must be in accordance with the principles underlying Community action in the ***policy*** area of equality between men and women;

b) its activities must be in accordance with the principles underlying ***and the legal provisions governing*** Community action in the area of equality between men and women;

*Justification*

*Self-explanatory.*

Amendment 4  
Article 4, paragraph 1

An operating grant shall be awarded directly ***to the European Women's Lobby in so far as it complies with the general criteria laid down in*** point 2.1 of the Annex

**Group 1:** An operating grant shall be awarded directly ***to the beneficiaries referred to under*** point 2.1 of the Annex

*Justification*

*The legal act should identify with more transparency the different awarding criteria in respect of the provisions of the Financial Regulation.*

Amendment 5  
Article 4, paragraph 2

2. The award of an operating grant on the basis of an ongoing programme of work or of a grant for a specific action to an organisation which is pursuing an objective of general European interest ***or an objective*** which is part of the European Union's policy of promoting equality between men and women must meet the general criteria laid down in points 2.2. and 2.3. of the Annex. Organisations entitled to receive grants shall be selected following a call for proposals.

2. The award of an operating grant on the basis of an ongoing programme of work or of a grant for a specific action to an organisation which is pursuing an objective of general European interest or an objective which is part of the European Union's policy of promoting equality between men and women must meet the general criteria laid down in points 2.2. and 2.3. of the Annex. Organisations entitled to receive grants shall be selected following a call for proposals.

Or. fr

*Justification*

*'Objective' has been deleted. It is enough if operating grants or specific actions can be financed with European funds.*

*[second part does not apply to English version]*

Amendment 6  
Article 5, paragraph 1

***The operating grant awarded to the European Women's Lobby and other organisations active at European level in the field of equality between men and women may cover no more than 80% of the organisation's total eligible expenditure for the calendar year for which the grant is awarded.***

***The principles of degressivity in real terms and cofinancing apply to all beneficiaries as follows:***

- bodies identified by a basic act: at least 10% of cofinancing even through contributions in kind, and no degressivity;***
- bodies selected by calls for proposals: at least 20% of cofinancing even through contributions in kind, and degressivity in real terms at a maximum rate of 2.5% from the third year onwards.***

*Justification*

*The legal acts should provide the opportunity to harmonise those principles with the awarding procedures foreseen by the Financial Regulation.*

Amendment 7  
Article 5, paragraph 2

*Pursuant to Article 113(2) of Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002, and by reason of the nature of the organisations covered by this Decision, a derogation shall be made from the principle of degressivity for operating grants awarded to the European Women's Lobby and for operating grants and grants for actions awarded to other organisations active at European level in the field of equality between women and men.* **deleted**

*Justification*

*Covered by Amendment 8.*

Amendment 8  
Article 6, paragraph 1

This programme shall start on 1 January 2004 and shall end on 31 December **2005**.      This programme shall start on 1 January 2004 and shall end on 31 December **2008**.

*Justification*

*The seven new programmes should have the same duration in order to evaluate the needs over the medium term.*

Amendment 9  
Article 6, paragraph 2

The financial framework for the implementation of this programme for the period from 2004 to **2005** shall be EUR **2.222** million.      The financial framework for the implementation of this programme for the period from 2004 to **2008** shall be EUR **5.5** million.

*Justification*

*The seven new programmes should have the same duration in order to evaluate the needs over the medium term. The Committee on Budgets does not change the Commission's proposals, but adapts the reference amount to a longer period.*



Amendment 10  
Article 6, paragraph 3 a (new)

***3a. The appropriations scheduled after the year 2006 are subject to an agreement of the budgetary authority on the financial perspective beyond 2006.***

*Justification*

*The financial perspective under the Interinstitutional Agreement covers the period 2000-2006. Appropriations after the year 2006 are subject to an agreement of the budgetary authority on the next financial framework for the year 2007 and beyond.*

Amendment 11  
Article 7

By 31 December **2006** at the latest, the Commission shall submit a report to the European Parliament and the Council on the achievement of the objectives of this programme. This report shall be based on the results obtained by the beneficiaries and shall assess, in particular, their effectiveness in achieving the objectives set out in Article 1 and the Annex.

By 31 December **2007** at the latest, the Commission shall submit a report to the European Parliament and the Council on the achievement of the objectives of this programme. This report shall be based on the results obtained by the beneficiaries and shall assess, in particular, their effectiveness in achieving the objectives set out in Article 1 and the Annex.

***The report shall be based fundamentally on an external assessment report which should be made available no later than the end of 2006 and should examine at least the overall relevance and coherence of the programme, the effectiveness of its execution (preparation, selection and implementation of the measures) and the overall and individual effectiveness of the various measures (in relation to the achievement of the objectives specified in Article 1 and the Annex).***

*Justification*

*The aim is to determine the characteristics of the assessment report.*

Amendment 12  
Annex, paragraph 1, point 1.1., fifth indent

- Reinforcing the aspect of equality between men and women in the EU enlargement process.

- Reinforcing the aspect of equality between men and women in the EU enlargement process **and developing cooperation with women's organisations in the new Member States.**

*Justification*

*It is essential to involve women's organisations in the new Member States in European projects concerning equality between men and women, in view of the lack of support these organisations receive in their own countries, and in view of the deterioration in the status of women caused by the economic and social transition process in certain countries.*

Amendment 13  
Annex, paragraph 1, point 1.2., fourth indent

- action promoting, inter alia, the **reconciliation** of working and family life, the involvement of women in decision-making, the fight against gender-related violence, gender stereotypes **and** discrimination at work.

- action promoting, inter alia, the **linking** of working and family life, the involvement of women in decision-making, the fight against **all forms of** gender-related violence, gender stereotypes and discrimination at work, **as well as gender mainstreaming in education, sport, health and social protection.**

*Justification*

*Gender mainstreaming in policies concerning education, sport, health and social protection is particularly important in order to ensure respect for women's human rights.*

Amendment 14  
Annex, paragraph 1, point 1.2., indent 4a (new)

**- measures fostering cooperation with women's organisations in third countries and raising awareness of the situation of women worldwide.**

*Justification*

*Outward-looking women's organisations which help to bring Europe and other continents closer together are in danger of being excluded from the programme. Women's rights are a global issue requiring links with third countries. Concern for the situation of women in the rest of the world*

*should not be confined to resolutions but should also find expression in Community programmes.*

Amendment 15

Annex, paragraph 2, introductory sentence

The activities carried out by **bodies** which may receive a Community grant under the programme will come under one of the following strands:

The activities carried out by **organisations** which may receive a Community grant under the programme will come under one of the following strands:

*Justification*

*This amendment aims to maintain coherence in the text of the Commission proposal.*

Amendment 16

Annex, paragraph 2, point 2.1

2.1. Strand 1: ongoing activities of the European Women's Lobby, whose members are women's organisations in the Member States of the European Union, respecting the following principles:

2.1. Strand 1: ongoing activities of the European Women's Lobby, whose members are, ***inter alia***, women's organisations in the Member States of the European Union, respecting the following principles:

*Justification*

*According to the Statutes of the European Women's Lobby, the members of that association are non-governmental organisations, women's sections of non-governmental organisations, and natural persons.*

Amendment 17

Annex, paragraph 2, point 2.1., second indent

- the European Women's Lobby must be free to pursue its activities in accordance with point 1.2. of the Annex.

- the European Women's Lobby must be free to pursue its activities in accordance with point 1.1. of the Annex.

*Justification*

*The reference should be to point 1.1., which is the one dealing with the activities of the European Women's Lobby.*

Amendment 18  
Annex, paragraph 2, point 2.2, first subparagraph

2.2. Strand 2: ongoing activities of an organisation pursuing an objective of general European interest in the field of gender equality ***or an objective which is part of the European Union's policy in this area.***

2.2. Strand 2: ongoing activities of ***a non-profit-making*** organisation pursuing an objective of general European interest in the field of gender equality:

*Justification*

*Self-explanatory.*

Amendment 19  
Annex, point 2.2., paragraph 2

In accordance with Article 2 of the Decision, this applies to a non-profit-making body carrying out its activities exclusively in order to achieve equality between women and men ***or an organisation with a wider aim which carries out part of its activities exclusively to promote equality between women and men.***

In accordance with Article 2 of the Decision, this applies to a non-profit-making body carrying out its activities exclusively in order to achieve equality between women and men, ***inter alia by combating violence as an obstacle to equality.***

*Justification*

*According to the Beijing Platform for Action (Paragraph 112), violence against women is an obstacle to the achievement of the objectives of equality, development and peace.*

Amendment 20  
Annex, paragraph 3, point 3.3

3.3. Bodies entitled to receive a grant for specific action under strand 3 of the programme will be selected on the basis of calls for proposals.

3.3. Bodies entitled to receive a grant for specific action under strand 3 of the programme will be selected on the basis of calls for proposals.

***The priority themes and types of activity of calls for proposals will be***

***communicated to the European  
Parliament before proceeding to the calls  
for proposal.***

*Justification*

*In order to keep control over the Commission's priorities when issuing a call for proposals, the priorities, themes and actions must be communicated to the EP so that there can be a dialogue between the Commission and the relevant committees.*

## FINANCIAL STATEMENT

\* to be attached to the draft report, in accordance with article 159, para 3 (c) of the Rules of Procedure (only if the financial framework proposed differs from the Commission proposal)

**Report:**  
**Rapporteur: Rodi Kratsa-Tsagaropoulou**

### 1. DESCRIPTION

**1.1. Title of action: Proposal for a Decision of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a Community action programme to promote organisations active at European level in the field of equality between men and women**

**1.2. Policy area(s): Employment and social affairs**  
**Activit(y/ies): Equality between men and women**

**1.3 ABB nomenclature (traditional nomenclature)**

A-3037 (No ABB 040503) and A-3046 (No ABB 040501)

### 2. OVERALL FIGURES

**2.1. Period of application:**

2004 - 2008

**2.2. Global cost and multiannual programming:**

(Financial intervention + technical assistance + human resources)

€ million

	Year	Year	Year	Year	Year	2009 (and subs. Years)		Total
	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008			
Commitments	0,982	1,101	1,119	1,139	1,158	0,00	0,00	5,5

### 3. COMPATIBILITY WITH FINANCIAL PROGRAMMING AND FINANCIAL PERSPECTIVE

Version compatibility

Version partial incompatibility

Version total incompatibility

**4. FINANCIAL IMPACT**

Commitments (in € million)

Breakdown	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009 (and subs. Years)	Total
Action 1	0,611	0,732	0,746	0,761	0,776	0,000	3,626
Action 2	0,336	0,343	0,350	0,357	0,364	0,000	1,75
Technical and administrative assistance	None	None	None	None	None	None	0,00
Human resources	None	None	None	None	None	None	0,00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>0,947</b>	<b>1,075</b>	<b>1,096</b>	<b>1,118</b>	<b>1,140</b>		<b>5,5</b>

3 November 2003

## **OPINION OF THE COMMITTEE ON BUDGETS (\*)**

for the Committee on Women's Rights and Equal Opportunities

on the proposal for a European Parliament and Council decision on establishing a Community action programme to promote organisations active at European level in the field of equality between men and women  
(COM(2003) 279 – C5-0261/2003 – 2003/0109(COD))

Draftsman: Bárbara Dührkop Dührkop (\*)

(\*) Enhanced cooperation between committees - Rule 162a

### **PROCEDURE**

The Committee on Budgets appointed Bárbara Dührkop Dührkop draftsman at its meeting of 10 July 2003.

It considered the draft opinion at its meeting of 3 November 2003.

At the meeting it adopted the following amendments unanimously.

The following were present for the vote: Terence Wynn (chairman), Reimer Böge (vice-chairman), Anne Elisabet Jensen (vice-chairwoman), Franz Turchi (vice-chairman), Bárbara Dührkop Dührkop (draftswoman), Ioannis Averoff, Joan Colom i Naval, James E.M. Elles, Salvador Garriga Polledo, Neena Gill, Catherine Guy-Quint, María Esther Herranz García, John Joseph McCartin, Juan Andrés Naranjo Escobar, Giovanni Pittella and Ralf Walter.



## SHORT JUSTIFICATION

### *Content*

Following the entry into force of the new Financial Regulation which requires a basic act for the actions covered by the subsidies of former chapter A-30 (plus subsidies provided under some B lines), the Commission has presented seven proposals establishing action programmes. The subsidies have been grouped according to the articles of the Treaty they refer to. All of them will become multiannual programmes with a financial amount (reference amount for codecisions).

Nevertheless, the rapporteur underlines that four proposals fall under the codecision procedure and three under the conciliation procedure.

Concerning the timetable, the following declaration was agreed at the conciliation of 16 July:

'The European Parliament and the Council will attempt to finalise their respective positions in the relevant legislative procedures **before the end of November 2003**, and to keep each other and the Commission informed of the progress of these works.

The three institutions agree to convene a triologue before the Council's second reading of the budget, with the objective to reach a common approach and, if possible, to **finally adopt the legal bases before the end of the year 2003.**'

The rapporteur therefore regrets the Commission's late adoption of this proposal, which was only at the end of May 2003, and draws attention to the possible difficulties of completing the procedure within the agreed timetable, not to mention possible difficulties during the conciliation procedure with Council.

In view of a possible delay, the Commission in its Communication which accompanies the package of proposals to replace the current A-lines states the following: 'In the event of failure to achieve that objective, the Commission will propose transitional derogations enabling grants to be awarded in 2004, pending adoption of the basic acts'.

Consequently, the rapporteur considers that the Commission should be prepared to put the transitional provisions in place, if needed.

At its meeting of 25 September, the Conference of Presidents decided that article 162a) of the rules of procedure, enhanced Cupertino, should apply to all aspects resulting from the provisions of the Financial Regulation and that article 63a) would apply to the aspects relating to the financial framework.

The rapporteur will have to look at the coherence of the proposals in close cooperation and the agreement with the specialised committees as required by this article.

Moreover, the rapporteur cannot avoid mentioning that these proposals intend to give a legal response to an old contentious item in the EU budget and therefore is convinced that the responsibility of Parliament as a co-legislator, adopting a solid legal framework for the future, should prevail over the necessity of the limitation of a timetable.

## ***Contents of the proposals in respect of the provisions of the Financial Regulation***

The new Financial Regulation contains a specific title while ruling the scope, the awarding procedure, the payment and the implementation provisions of grants financed by the budget (title VI, articles 108 to 110 and articles 162 to 168 of the implementing rules).

Article 110, paragraph 1<sup>1</sup> of the Financial Regulation foresees that all types of grants are submitted to the rule of call for proposals 'save in duly substantiated exceptional cases of urgency or where the characteristics of the beneficiary leave no other choice for a given action'.

Article 168, paragraph 1<sup>2</sup> of the implementing rules clarifies the exceptions and in particular the case of organisations identified in a special legal act.

The rapporteur recalls that these provisions directly result from the negotiations with the Commission and the Council on the Financial Regulation. In fact, the Commission proposals legitimate specific and limited exceptions to the general rules of the Financial Regulation. As a consequence, differentiated awarding conditions are set up between three groups of 'bodies' who may be eligible for a subsidy according to different awarding procedures as described below:

Group 1: organisations pre-assigned in the legal act itself for the support of operating grants: **awarded without a call for proposals** on the condition that it respects the criteria laid down in the annex of the regulation and general principles of the Financial Regulation (case of the College of Bruges).

Group 2: the general rule is the **call for proposals**.

However two exceptions are admitted in the field of culture and citizenship only (Com (2003) 275 and Com (2003) 276). Operating grants, allocated to beneficiaries explicitly named in the budget remarks of budget lines entirely pre-assigned, can be allocated **without a call for proposals** in accordance with the criteria laid down in the annex (former budget lines A-3021, A-3026 and A-3042).

Group 3: organisations eligible for a EU subsidy on a specific activity **awarded with a call for proposals** in accordance with the overall criteria laid down in the annex (other cases).

Not all of the seven basic acts contain the three strands. The conditions for the call for tender

---

<sup>1</sup> Grants shall be subject to an annual programme, to be published at the start of the year, with the exception of crisis management aid and humanitarian aid operations.

This work programme shall be implemented through the publication of calls for proposals save in duly substantiated exceptional cases of urgency or where the characteristics of the beneficiary leave no other choice for a given action

<sup>2</sup> Grants may be awarded without a call for proposals only in the following cases:

(a) for the purposes of humanitarian aid, within the meaning of Council Regulation No 1257/96 and aid for crisis situations within the meaning of paragraph 2;

(b) in other exceptional and duly substantiated emergencies;

(c) to bodies with a *de jure* or *de facto* monopoly, duly substantiated in the Commission's award decision;

(d) to bodies identified by a basic act as recipients of a grant.

are defined in the annex of each of the seven proposals for regulation.

The rapporteur recognises the efforts made by the Commission to respect Parliament's prerogatives through the budget; however she considers that the exceptions should remain limited and that the calls for proposals should remain the general rule.

The rapporteur is of the opinion that group 2 (ear-marking) is dubious from a legal point of view.

#### *Degressivity and cofinancing*

In accordance with article 113, paragraph 1 of the new Financial Regulation, the grant may not finance the entire costs of the action, subject to Title IV of part two, nor the entire operating expenditure of the beneficiary body.

In accordance with article 113, paragraph 2 of the new Financial Regulation, degressivity should apply to all operating grants except those bodies pursuing an objective of general European interest. However, article 113 foresees the exception of legal acts which provide for different measures.

The proposals of the Commission do not present a homogeneous approach with respect to the different organisations in these two aspects.

The rapporteur is in favour of harmonising the provisions on a more equal manner.

#### *Annual report*

The Commission will publish an annual report with the list of beneficiaries and the amounts received. The rapporteur agrees on this transparency provision.

#### *Implementation*

All the programmes contained in the legal acts (except relations between EU and third countries and organisations working for equality between men and women), will be managed through an executive agency. The others will be managed internally.

The rapporteur supports the Commission's intention to delegate executive tasks to the new executive agencies however she is of the opinion that any attempt at introducing commitology should be rejected.

#### *Budgetary Aspects*

##### *Duration of the Programmes*

The proposals foresee different durations.

The rapporteur proposes a similar duration for all the programmes until 2008 in order to harmonise the length of the programmes, on the basis of a mid term evaluation, to maintain more

coherence between them and to facilitate the budgetary forecasts.

### *Financial framework*

Particularly in the case of codecisions, the rapporteur stresses the advantage of a global decision in the negotiations with Council.

The Commission has calculated the amounts of the different envelopes on B 2003 with a deflator of 2% per year. The envelopes take on board the figure entered in the A and B parts however they also include additional amounts for technical assistance and commitology as the actions become programmes. This generates additional administrative costs which should not reduce the share of operational appropriations.

The rapporteur considers that the amounts entered in the Budget 2004 should be the basis to evaluate further needs during the period.

## **AMENDMENTS**

The Committee on Budgets calls on the Committee on Women's Rights and Equal Opportunities, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following amendments in its report:

### Amendment 1

## **AMENDMENT TO THE LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION**

*[The European Parliament]*

Considers that the financial statement of the Commission proposal [as amended] is compatible with the ceiling of heading 5 of the financial perspectives 2000-2006.

### *Justification*

*According to the common declaration of 20 July 2000, the budgetary authority is entitled to evaluate the compatibility of new proposals in relation with the expenditure foreseen to maintain existing policies. If, in the course of the adoption of the decision, other amounts were to be proposed by the legislative authority, the budgetary authority would need to be consulted again. In this case, the Committee on Budgets would re-examine the impact on the ceiling under the current financial perspective according to Rule 63a of the Rules of Procedure.*

---

Text proposed by the Commission

---

Amendments by Parliament

Amendment 2  
Recital 9a (new)

***The European Parliament, the Council and the Commission undertook, at the time of the adoption of the Financial Regulation, to achieve the objective of ensuring that this basic act enters into force as from the financial year 2004 .***

*Justification*

*In the negotiations of the new Financial Regulation, a common agreement was reached to preserve the EP's rights to identify beneficiaries of grants through earmarking in the budget. This right has been formalised in the statement to Article 108 of the Financial Regulation.*

Amendment 3  
Article 4, paragraph 1

An operating grant shall be awarded directly ***to the European Women's Lobby in so far as it complies with the general criteria laid down in*** point 2.1 of the Annex

**Group 1:** An operating grant shall be awarded directly ***to the beneficiaries referred to under*** point 2.1 of the Annex

*Justification*

*The legal act should identify with more transparency the different awarding criteria in respect of the provisions of the Financial Regulation.*

Amendment 4  
Article 4, paragraph 2

The award of an operating grant on the basis of an ongoing programme of work or of a grant for a specific action to an organisation which is pursuing an objective of general European interest or an objective which is part of the European Union's policy of promoting equality between men and women must meet the general criteria laid down in points 2.2. and 2.3. of the Annex. Organisations entitled to receive grants shall be selected following a call for proposals.

**Group 2:** The award of an operating grant on the basis of an ongoing programme of work or of a grant for a specific action to an organisation which is pursuing an objective of general European interest or an objective which is part of the European Union's policy of promoting equality between men and women must meet the general criteria laid down in points 2.2. and 2.3. of the Annex. Organisations entitled to receive grants shall be selected following a call for proposals.

### *Justification*

*The legal act should identify with more transparency the different awarding criteria in respect of the provisions of the Financial Regulation.*

#### Amendment 5 Article 5, paragraph 1

***The operating grant awarded to the European Women's Lobby and other organisations active at European level in the field of equality between men and women may cover no more than 80% of the organisation's total eligible expenditure for the calendar year for which the grant is awarded.***

***The principles of degressivity in real terms and cofinancing apply to all beneficiaries as follows:***

- bodies identified by a basic act: at least 10% of cofinancing even through contributions in kind, and no degressivity;***
- bodies selected by calls for proposals: at least 20% of cofinancing even through contributions in kind, and degressivity in real terms at a maximum rate of 2.5% from the third year onwards.***

### *Justification*

*The legal acts should provide the opportunity to harmonise those principles with the awarding procedures foreseen by the Financial Regulation.*

#### Amendment 6 Article 5, paragraph 2

***Pursuant to Article 113(2) of Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002, and by reason of the nature of the organisations covered by this Decision, a derogation shall be made from the principle of degressivity for operating grants awarded to the European Women's Lobby and for operating grants and grants for actions awarded to other organisations active at European level in the field of equality between women and men.***

***deleted***

### *Justification*

*Covered by amendment 5.*

Amendment 7  
Article 6, paragraph 1

This programme shall start on 1 January 2004 and shall end on 31 December **2005**.

This programme shall start on 1 January 2004 and shall end on 31 December **2008**.

*Justification*

*The seven new programmes should have the same duration in order to evaluate the needs over the medium term.*

Amendment 8  
Article 6, paragraph 2

The financial framework for the implementation of this programme for the period from 2004 to **2005** shall be EUR **2.222** million.

The financial framework for the implementation of this programme for the period from 2004 to **2008** shall be EUR **5.5** million.

*Justification*

*The seven new programmes should have the same duration in order to evaluate the needs over the medium term. The Committee on Budgets does not change the Commission's proposals, but adapts the reference amount to a longer period.*

Amendment 9  
Article 6, paragraph 4 (new)

***The appropriations scheduled after the year 2006 are subject to an agreement of the budgetary authority on the financial perspective beyond 2006.***

*Justification*

*The financial perspective under the Interinstitutional Agreement covers the period 2000-2006. Appropriations after the year 2006 are subject to an agreement of the budgetary authority on the next financial framework for the year 2007 and beyond.*

Amendment 10  
Article 7

By 31 December **2006** at the latest, the Commission shall submit a report to the European Parliament and the Council on the achievement of the objectives of this programme. This report shall be based on the results obtained by the beneficiaries and shall assess, in particular, their effectiveness in achieving the objectives set out in Article 1 and the Annex.

By 31 December **2007** at the latest, the Commission shall submit a report to the European Parliament and the Council on the achievement of the objectives of this programme. This report shall be based on the results obtained by the beneficiaries and shall assess, in particular, their effectiveness in achieving the objectives set out in Article 1 and the Annex.

*Justification*

*Evaluation should be postponed to near the end of the duration of the programme.*

Amendment 11  
Annex, point 3.3

3.3. Bodies entitled to receive a grant for specific action under strand 3 of the programme will be selected on the basis of calls for proposals.

3.3. Bodies entitled to receive a grant for specific action under strand 3 of the programme will be selected on the basis of calls for proposals.

***The priority themes and types of activity of calls for proposals will be communicated to the European Parliament before proceeding to the calls for proposal.***

*Justification*

*In order to keep control over the Commission's priorities when issuing a call for proposals, the priorities, themes and actions must be communicated to the EP so that there can be a dialogue between the Commission and the relevant committees.*