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*****I** **REPORT**

on the proposal for a European Parliament and Council decision amending
Decision No 508/2000/EC of 14 February 2000 establishing the 'Culture 2000'
programme
(COM(2002) 187 – C5-C5-0178/2003 – 2003/0076(COD))

Committee on Culture, Youth, Education, the Media and Sport

Rapporteur: Michel Rocard

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.

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PROCEDURAL PAGE

By letter of 16 April 2003 the Commission submitted to Parliament, pursuant to Articles 251(2) and 151 of the EC Treaty, the proposal for a European Parliament and Council decision amending Decision No 508/2000/EC of 14 February 2000 establishing the 'Culture 2000' programme (COM(2002) 187 – 2003/0076(COD)).

At the sitting of 12 May 2003 the President of Parliament announced that he had referred the proposal to the Committee on Culture, Youth, Education, the Media and Sport as the committee responsible and the Committee on Budgets for its opinion (C5-C5-0178/2003).

The Committee on Culture, Youth, Education, the Media and Sport appointed Michel Rocard rapporteur at its meeting of 12 June 2003.

The committee considered the Commission proposal and draft report at its meetings of 4 and 25/26 November 2003.

At the latter meeting it adopted the draft legislative resolution unanimously.

The following were present for the vote: Michel Rocard (chairman and rapporteur), Vasco Graça Moura (vice-chairman), Mario Mauro (vice-chairman), Theresa Zabell (vice-chairman), Christopher J.P. Beazley, Ruth Hieronymi, Roy Perry, Sabine Zissener, Lissy Gröner, Renzo Imbeni, Feleknas Uca, Raina A. Mercedes Echerer and Francesco Fiori (for Domenico Mennitti pursuant to Rule 153(2)).

The opinion of the Committee on Budgets is attached.

The report was tabled on 28 November 2003.

DRAFT EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION

on the proposal for a European Parliament and Council decision amending Decision No 508/2000/EC of 14 February 2000 establishing the 'Culture 2000' programme (COM(2002) 187 – C5-C5-0178/2003 – 2003/0076(COD))

(Codecision procedure: first reading)

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the Commission proposal to the European Parliament and the Council (COM(2002) 187),
 - having regard to Articles 251(2) and 151 of the EC Treaty, pursuant to which the Commission submitted the proposal to Parliament (C5-C5-0178/2003),
 - having regard to Rule 67 of its Rules of Procedure,
 - having regard to the report of the Committee on Culture, Youth, Education, the Media and Sport and the opinion of the Committee on Budgets (A5-0417/2003),
1. Considers that the financial statement of the Commission proposal is compatible with the ceiling of heading 3 of the Financial Perspective without restricting other policies;
 2. Approves the Commission proposal as amended;
 3. Calls on the Commission to refer the matter to Parliament again if it intends to amend its 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 Commission¹

Amendments by Parliament

Amendment 1
RECITAL 3 A (new)

(3a) The revision of the financial perspective in view of enlargement provides for an increased ceiling of Heading 3 which has to be respected by the legislative authority when extending existing programmes,

¹ Not yet published in OJ.

Justification

The ceiling of Heading 3 as it was increased by the revision of the financial perspective in view of enlargement has to be respected by the legislative authority.

Amendment 3
RECITAL 3 B (new)

(3b) It is essential that the Commission provide a full and detailed assessment report on the Culture 2000 Programme not later than 31 December 2005 in order to be able to consider the proposal for a new framework programme for Community action on culture, announced for 2004 and planned to start in 2007,

Justification

In view of the delays with the Commission's reports on 'Culture 2000' it has to be made clear that any discussion and subsequent decision on a new proposal for a 'Culture 2007' Programme can only take place on the basis of a full and detailed assessment report of the results achieved so far.

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

The aim of the 'Culture 2000' programme, which groups together the three previous cultural cooperation programmes, Raphaël, Ariane and Kaleidoscope, is to establish a single funding and planning instrument for cultural cooperation. This framework programme seeks to introduce a common cultural area by promoting cultural dialogue and knowledge of the history, creation, and dissemination of culture and the mobility of artists and their works, Europe's cultural heritage, new forms of cultural expression and the socio-economic role of culture. To enable it to fulfil this task, the 'Culture 2000' programme has been given a budget allocation of EUR 167 m for the period 2000 to 2004 for various actions. The Commission is responsible for implementing the programme, with the assistance of a management committee consisting of Member States' representatives.

In the final decision on the implementation of the 'Culture 2000' programme, it was agreed that the Commission would submit to the European Parliament, the Council and the Committee of the Regions by 31 October 2002 a detailed assessment report on the progress made in achieving the objectives set, accompanied if necessary by a proposal to amend the current proposal for a decision. A final report is also to be submitted on completion of the programme.

The Commission points out that the current 'Culture 2000' programme will expire right in the middle of a period of changes crucial to the future of the European Union (enlargement, IGC, European elections, election of a new Commission). It rightly notes that it is essential to ensure continuity of Community support and avoid any interruption of the Community's cultural measures, out of a sense of duty to cultural operators. In fact, as Community law stands at present, there is no legal basis for supporting cultural cooperation projects beginning in 2005. The extension decision needs to be adopted so that a call for project proposals, properly prepared by the 'Culture 2000' programme management committee, can be published to attract European cultural operators.

The appeal for a responsible approach issued by the Commission, which claims to have been prompted by the deadlines for the implementation of the procedures concerned, does not entirely free the Commission, as administrator of the 'Culture 2000' programme, from its duty to make available the information needed for an overall assessment of the programme now that a significant part of the Community action involved has been completed, a duty it has recognised on an number of occasions through specific commitments.

This kind of mid-term assessment is designed to provide the institutions involved in the codecision process with sufficient information to draw up a provisional evaluation of the programme and take the most appropriate decisions regarding its implementation. If no assessment is made, a decision to extend the programme as it stands for a further two years is tantamount to a blank cheque. It is highly questionable whether this is in the public interest. Furthermore, the Commission itself, when proposing that the 'Culture 2000' programme be extended in *identical* form for the years 2005 and 2006, with the result that its content would be unchanged, notes that 'there is still considerable room for improvement' with regard to Community action on culture.¹

¹ COM(2003) 187, p. 3

Your rapporteur recently received from the Commission an informal and provisional evaluation report with a favourable assessment of the partial implementation of the 'Culture 2000' programme. He welcomes the Commission's declared intention of appearing before the Committee on Culture, Youth, Education, the Media and Sport to submit its provisional assessment before the committee has to take a decision on the proposal for a European Parliament and Council decision amending Decision No 508/2000/EC establishing the 'Culture 2000' programme, seeking to extend it for a further two years.

Your rapporteur hopes that this presentation will provide substantial background information that will enable Parliament and the Council to respond favourably to the Commission's request to extend the 'Culture 2000' proposal with a budget of EUR 69 500 m.

When discussing the proposal for a decision seeking to establish a new framework programme for Community action on culture, announced by the Commission for early 2004, a more wide-ranging debate should be launched between the competent institutions on the basis of a full and detailed report, updated by the Commission, as a basis for determining and, if necessary, amending the guidelines and basic data for this new programme.

25 November 2003

OPINION OF THE COMMITTEE ON BUDGETS

for the Committee on Culture, Youth, Education, the Media and Sport

on the proposal for a European Parliament and Council Decision amending Decision No 508/2000 EC of 14 February 2000 establishing the 'Culture 2000' programme (COM(2003) 187 – C5-0178/2003 – 2003/0076(COD))

Draftsman: Reimer Böge

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PROCEDURE

The Committee on Budgets appointed Reimer Böge draftsman at its meeting of 22 May 2003.

It considered the draft opinion at its meeting of 25 November 2003.

At this meeting it adopted the following amendments unanimously.

The following were present for the vote: Terence Wynn (chairman), Reimer Böge (vice-chairman and draftsman), Franz Turchi (vice-chairman), Ioannis Averoff, Kathalijne Maria Buitenweg, Joan Colom i Naval, Manuel António dos Santos, Den Dover, Bárbara Dührkop Dührkop, Salvador Garriga Polledo, Jan Mulder, Juan Andrés Naranjo Escobar, Joaquim Piscarreta, Esko Olavi Seppänen, Per Stenmarck and Ralf Walter.

SHORT JUSTIFICATION

Background

1. The current 'Culture 2000' programme is due to expire on 31 December 2004. It has had a duration of five years with an overall budget of 167 million euro.
2. The Commission plans to propose a new European Community framework programme for culture intended to commence in 2007. With 'Culture 2000' expiring at the end of 2004 and the new programme due to start only in 2007 there will be a gap of two years (2005 and 2006) which the Commission plans to bridge with the current proposal.
3. Accordingly, in order to guarantee continuity of the Community's cultural activities as provided for by the Treaty, the Commission proposes to extend 'Culture 2000' unchanged for 2005 and 2006. For this extension the proposal adapts the overall budget of 'Culture 2000' from 167 m as provided for in the original programme to 236.5 m euro.
4. In order to be able to start financing projects in 2005 a legal basis will have to be adopted in early 2004 and a call for proposals published by the end of the first half of 2004.

Financial impact

5. According to the Commission, the total budgetary impact of the proposal over the two years concerned, 2005 and 2006, is 69.5 million euro (66.9 m for the financial intervention itself + 2.6 m for technical and administrative assistance and support expenditure).
6. The following table shows the schedule of commitment appropriations/payment appropriations as given by the proposal (in euro million):

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	Total
Commitments EU25	33.600	33.300				66.900
Payments EU25	16.645	30.760	14.235	2.630	2.630	66.900

7. These figures are directly derived (adjusted for an inflation rate of 2%) from the figures of the original 'Culture 2000' programme, as adapted to EU25 for 2004 on the basis of the Colom I Naval/Böge report on the adjustment of the financial perspective for enlargement (*Amendment 2*):

'CULTURE 2000'	2003/EU15	2004/EU15	2004/EU25
Commitments	31.300	29.300	32.900
Payments	28.500	23.300	25.000

8. According to the Commission, technical assistance and administrative support and IT expenditure is 2.6 m euro for the two year extension accounting for 3.7% of the total allocation for the programme. This the draftsman considers to be within the average range.
9. Thus, the financial impact of the Commission proposal is acceptable. It is also compatible with the current expenditure ceiling of Heading 3 of the financial perspective (*Amendment 1*).

Other aspects

10. With regard to evaluation and monitoring as provided for in the Decision establishing the Culture 2000 Programme, your draftsman notes that there have been considerable delays on the Commission side.
11. An informal and preliminary report received by Parliament has given a favourable assessment of the partial implementation of 'Culture 2000'. Your draftsman hopes that the official communication promised by the Commission to the Committee on Culture, Youth, Education, the Media and Sport before it is due to adopt the current proposal will support this positive view.
12. In order for Parliament to be able to decide on the coming proposal for a new framework programme for Community action on culture, announced for 2004 and planned to start in 2007, a full and detailed report by the Commission will be needed by the end of 2005 as a basis for discussion (*Amendment 3*).

AMENDMENTS

The Committee on Budgets calls on the Committee on Culture, Youth, Education, the Media and Sport, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following amendments in its report:

AMENDMENT TO THE LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION

Amendment 1

[The European Parliament]

Considers that the financial statement of the Commission proposal is compatible with the ceiling of heading 3 of the Financial Perspective without restricting other policies;

Justification

The amount proposed for the implementation of this decision is compatible with the expenditure ceilings under the financial perspective. 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 according to article 63a) of the Rules of

Procedure. In this case, the Committee on Budgets would re-examine the impact on the ceiling under the current financial perspective, according to the declaration of 20 July 2000.

AMENDMENTS TO THE LEGISLATIVE TEXT

Text proposed by the Commission¹

Amendments by Parliament

Amendment 2
RECITAL 3 A (new)

(3a) The revision of the financial perspective in view of enlargement provides for an increased ceiling of Heading 3 which has to be respected by the legislative authority when extending existing programmes.

Justification

The ceiling of Heading 3 as it was increased by the revision of the financial perspective in view of enlargement has to be respected by the legislative authority.

Amendment 3
RECITAL 3 B (new)

(3b) It is essential that the Commission provide a full and detailed assessment report on the Culture 2000 Programme not later than 31 December 2005 in order to be able to consider the proposal for a new framework programme for Community action on culture, announced for 2004 and planned to start in 2007,

Justification

In view of the delays with the Commission's reports on 'Culture 2000' it has to be made clear that any discussion and subsequent decision on a new proposal for a 'Culture 2007' Programme can only take place on the basis of a full and detailed assessment report of the results achieved so far.

¹ Not yet published in OJ..