

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2004



2009

Committee on Foreign Affairs

2004/0099(COD)

24.5.2005

OPINION

of the Committee on Foreign Affairs

for the Committee on Development

on the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council
on the access to Community External Assistance
(COM(2004)0313 – C6-0032/2004 – 2004/0099(COD))

Draftsperson: Monika Beňová

PA_Leg

SHORT JUSTIFICATION

The draftsman welcomes the Commission proposal for a regulation designed to further untie Community external aid in regard to tendering procedures for goods and services as an important step towards adhering to the Monterrey commitments. This horizontal regulation, which establishes access to all development assistance programmes financed from the general budget of the European Union, would allow raising the effectiveness of the development aid and reducing the transaction costs of its implementation.

However, the draftsman believes that the proposal does not regard sufficiently the specific nature and non-financial aspects of the development aid and, thus, proposes to grant an exemption to the NGOs, who provide added value by reaching the target groups for aid that are difficult through the official channels, work to raise the public awareness of the development issues and contribute to the overall North-South partnership. She also considers it essential to guarantee that the competence of the experts employed by the tenderers is sufficient and relevant, as well as that the Parliament is kept duly informed on the comitology procedures applied for granting access to the third countries to the external Community aid. Since the European public clearly wants the EU to play a central role in the development co-ordination but is to a large degree oblivious of both the Community actions and the Millennium Development Goals, the draftsman also asks the Commission to carry out an information campaign among the public to raise the awareness of the development co-operation.

AMENDMENTS

The Committee on Foreign Affairs calls on the Committee on Development, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following amendments in its report:

Text proposed by the Commission¹

Amendments by Parliament

Amendment 1 Article 3, paragraph 5

5. The eligibility rules in this article do not apply to the experts proposed by tenderers taking part in the award of procurement contracts. Those experts can be of any nationality.

5. The eligibility rules in this article do not apply to the experts proposed by tenderers taking part in the award of procurement contracts. Those experts can be of any nationality, ***provided that they are able to demonstrate proven competence, skills and***

¹ OJ C ... / Not yet published in OJ.

experience in the relevant field.

Justification

It must be guaranteed that the best value for the Community aid funding is achieved. The experts proposed by the tenderers should be able to demonstrate relevant experience and expertise for the works and region for which they are employed.

Amendment 2
Article 5, paragraph 3

3. Reciprocal access to EC external assistance shall be established by means of a specific decision concerning a given country or a given regional group of countries. Such a decision shall be adopted in accordance with the Council Decision 1999/468/EC under the procedures and relevant committee ruling the instrument concerned. Such a decision shall be in force for a minimum period of one year.

3. Reciprocal access to EC external assistance shall be established by means of a specific decision concerning a given country or a given regional group of countries. Such a decision shall be adopted in accordance with the Council Decision 1999/468/EC under the procedures and relevant committee ruling the instrument concerned. ***The right of the European Parliament to be regularly informed according to Article 7(3) of that Decision shall be fully respected.*** Such a decision shall be in force for a minimum period of one year.

Justification

The European Parliament should be kept duly informed on the comitology procedures applied for granting access to the third countries to the external Community aid.

Amendment 3
Article 7, paragraph 3

3. The eligibility rules in this article do not apply to the experts proposed by tenderers taking part in the award of procurement contracts. Those experts can be of any country.

3. The eligibility rules in this article do not apply to the experts proposed by tenderers taking part in the award of procurement contracts. Those experts can be of any country, ***provided that they are able to demonstrate proven competence, skills and experience in the relevant field.***

Justification

It must be guaranteed that the best value for the Community aid funding is achieved. The experts proposed by the tenderers should be able to demonstrate relevant experience and expertise for the works and region for which they are employed.

Amendment 4 ANNEX I, PART A, POINT 10

(10) Council Regulation (EC) No 1658/98 of 17 July 1998 on co-financing operations with European non-governmental organisations (NGOs) in fields of interest to the developing countries. deleted

- ***Article 3 (1) (second indent) is replaced by the following: “They must have an Headquarter in an eligible country and the Headquarters must be the main centre for decisions relating to the co-financed operations, as defined in the EC Regulation n°XXXX”.***
- ***Article 3 (1) (third indent) is replaced by the following “The majority of their funding must originate in an eligible country as defined in the EC Regulation n°XXXX”.***
- ***Article 3 (3) is added “The origin of supplies and materials purchased under this Regulation is defined according to the rules of nationality and origin and their derogations, as contained in the EC Regulation n°XXXX”.***

Justification

The proposal does not consider the non-financial aspects of the work of the non-governmental organisations in the development countries. Their primary objective is not to provide goods and services but to provide added value by aiming to attain goals such as reaching target groups which are difficult through the official channels, the advancing of development education and contribution to the North and South dialogue. Thus, they should be exempted from this regulation.

Amendment 5
Article 10 a (new)

Article 10a

The Commission shall carry out information activities in order to increase European public awareness of the Millennium Development Goals and of the Community's activities in the field of development co-operation.

Justification

A recently released Eurobarometer study "Attitudes Towards Development Aid" carried out between 22 November and 19 December 2004 showed that the European public strongly expects the EU to play a central role in the development co-operation. At the same time, the results of the study showed that the public awareness of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the Commission aid is limited. As much as 88% of the interviewees confessed to never have heard of the MDGs.

PROCEDURE

Title	Proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the access to Community External Assistance
References	(COM(2004)0313 – C6-0032/2004 – 2004/0099(COD))
Committee responsible	DEVE
Committee asked for its opinion Date announced in plenary	AFET 15.9.2004
Enhanced cooperation	
Draftsman Date appointed	Monika Beňová 13.9.2004
Discussed in committee	26.4.2005 24.5.2005
Date amendments adopted	24.5.2005
Result of final vote	for: 46 against: 0 abstentions: 6
Members present for the final vote	Vittorio Emanuele Agnoletto, Angelika Beer, Panagiotis Beglitis, Monika Beňová, André Brie, Véronique De Keyser, Anna Elzbieta Fotyga, Alfred Gomolka, Richard Howitt, Anna Ibrisagic, Georgios Karatzaferis, Bogdan Klich, Helmut Kuhne, Armin Laschet, Cecilia Malmström, Francisco José Millán Mon, Baroness Nicholson of Winterbourne, Cem Özdemir, Justas Vincas Paleckis, Alojz Peterle, Mirosław Mariusz Piotrowski, Paweł Bartłomiej Piskorski, Michel Rocard, Libor Rouček, José Ignacio Salafranca Sánchez-Neyra, Jacek Emil Saryusz-Wolski, György Schöpflin, Gitte Seeberg, Marek Maciej Siwiec, Ursula Stenzel, István Szent-Iványi, Konrad Szymański, Geoffrey Van Orden, Ari Vatanen, Jan Marinus Wiersma, Karl von Wogau
Substitutes present for the final vote	Laima Liucija Andrikienė, Philip Bushill-Matthews, Proinsias De Rossa, Árpád Duka-Zólyomi, Milan Horáček, Jaromír Kohlíček, Alexander Lambsdorff, Jo Leinen, Janusz Onyszkiewicz, Rihards Pīks, Inger Segelström, Csaba Sándor Tabajdi
Substitutes under Rule 178(2) present for the final vote	Sylwester Chruszcz, Mario Mauro, Pier Antonio Panzeri, Thomas Wise