

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2004



2009

Committee on Budgets

2004/0151(COD)

26.7.2005

OPINION

of the Committee on Budgets

for the Committee on Culture and Education

on the proposal for a European Parliament and Council decision concerning the implementation of a programme of support for the European audiovisual sector (MEDIA 2007)
(COM(2004)0470 – C6-0093/2004 – 2004/0151(COD))

Draftswoman: Brigitte Douay

PA_Leg

SHORT JUSTIFICATION

In its communication on the financial perspective 2007-2013¹ the Commission proposed that the new Media 2007 programme be brought under heading 3 (Citizenship), to which a sum of € 24 705 million has been allocated. The Media programme forms part of measures to promote culture and European citizenship, which account for 15% of the overall budget.

COMMISSION PROPOSAL

In July 2004 the Commission submitted a proposal for a decision of the European Parliament and the Council concerning the implementation of a programme of support for the European audiovisual sector (Media 2007) (COM(2004) 470 final²), which will bring together the current Media Plus and Media Training programmes.

The overall objectives of the new programme will be to preserve and enhance European cultural diversity and Europe's cinematographic and audiovisual heritage, increase the circulation of European audiovisual works and enhance the competitiveness of the European audiovisual industry.

The programme will take due account of four horizontal priorities, namely:

- fostering creativity in the audiovisual sector and knowledge and dissemination of Europe's cinematographic and audiovisual heritage;
- bolstering production structures, particularly within SMEs;
- reducing the imbalances in the market between high production capacity countries and countries with lower production capacity;
- following and supporting market developments with regard to digitisation.

The programme seeks to simplify Community action, which comprises the following two phases:

1. Pre-production: This phase covers training and development. Support will mainly take the form of grants for training projects with European added value and for independent production companies for the development of individual projects, with small and medium-sized enterprises being afforded easier access to Media 2007.

2. Post-production: This phase covers distribution and promotion. Support for the distribution phase remains a priority for the consolidation of the European single market and for developing the industry. As regards promotion, unlike the decision currently in force, the Commission proposal does not list commercial events and audiovisual festivals among the activities covered.

¹ COM(2004) 487 final.

² OJ C 12, 18.1.2005, p. 25.

The Commission is proposing a significant increase in resources for the audiovisual sector, with an overall budget of € 1 055 which breaks down as follows:

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	TOTAL
Commit. apps.	105	112	133	150	171	184	200	1 055
Payment apps.	70.493	108.119	121.877	152.945	192.217	200.497	208.852	1 055

Of this total, € 969.754 m will be earmarked for operating expenditure and € 85.2 m for administrative expenditure, including a € 76.8 m contribution to the funding of the education and culture executive agency.

The Media Plus programme is allocated € 453 m¹ and Media Training € 59.4 m². In all, the Commission is proposing an increase of approximately 51.3% for the future programme.

As a rule, Community cofinancing cannot be higher than 50%. However, in some specific cases it can cover up to 75% of costs.

The Commission will give the executive agency responsibility for running the programme.

REMARKS

The draftswoman welcomes the Commission proposal, particularly the proposed simplification, and calls accordingly on the Commission to ensure that the programme is implemented in a transparent and consistent manner.

Over and above the innovative measures put forward by the Commission, the draftswoman has the following proposals to make:

1. As regards training, the draftswoman welcomes the measures seeking to foster mobility of students and professionals within Europe through mobility grants for the new Member States, but considers that these mobility arrangements should be open to professionals from all the Member States.
2. It needs to be emphasised that the amount shown in Article 2 is for guidance only, until such time as agreement is reached on the financial perspective. Amendments are tabled to the draft legislative resolution and to Article 2 of the proposed decision with this in mind.
3. Given that one of the objectives of the Media 2007 programme is to facilitate access by SMEs, a new paragraph 9(3a) is proposed with a view to simplifying procedures, so as to make them more flexible and to take account of the specific needs of this vulnerable sector³.

¹ € 350 m + € 103.6 m, enlargement adjustment - Decision No 846/2004.

² € 52 m + € 7.4 m, enlargement adjustment - Decision No 845/2004.

³ Mid-term evaluation of the Media Plus and Media Training programmes. Consortium members: Media

4. To ensure that the procedure is effective, the Committee on Budgets' standard approach of advocating the use of the advisory procedure should be followed. An amendment is tabled to Article 11 to this end. This is a horizontal amendment which also affects Articles 10(2) and 15 and section 1.1. of chapter 2 of the annex.
5. Lastly, it is important to ensure democratic scrutiny by means of suitable arrangements for programme monitoring and evaluation. Five amendments have been tabled in this connection, to Article 10 (paragraph 2, new points (da) and (db), and new paragraph 3a), and to Article 14.

AMENDMENTS

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

Draft legislative resolution

Amendment 1 Paragraph 1 a (new)

1a. Stresses that the appropriations set out in the legislative proposal for the post-2006 period are dependent on the decision on the next multiannual financial framework;

Amendment 2 Paragraph 1 b (new)

1b. Calls on the Commission to submit, where appropriate, a proposal to adjust the financial reference amount for this programme once the next multiannual financial framework has been adopted;

Justification

The financial reference amount cannot be established until the financial perspective has been adopted. Once it has been adopted, the Commission should submit a legislative proposal with a view to determining the reference amount in accordance with the ceiling set in the financial framework.

Proposal for a decision

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendments by Parliament

Amendment 3 Article 2, paragraph 1

1. The budget for implementing this programme for the period set out in Article 1(1) is fixed at €1 055 million.

1. The ***indicative*** budget for implementing this programme for the ***seven-year*** period ***running from 1 January 2007*** set out in Article 1(1) is fixed at €1 055 million.

Justification

The financial reference amount is for guidance only until such time as the financial perspective is adopted. Once it has been adopted, the Commission should submit a legislative proposal with a view to determining the reference amount in accordance with the ceiling set in the financial framework (see amendment to legislative resolution).

Amendment 4 Article 9, paragraph 3 a (new)

3a. The Commission shall adhere to the proportionality principle in connection with eligibility criteria and the documents to be supplied and filled in.

Justification

Given that a stated aim of the programme is to facilitate access by SMEs, procedures need to be simplified so as to make them more flexible and to facilitate access to the programme.

Amendment 5 Article 10, paragraph 2, point (d a) (new)

(da) project selection proposals;

Justification

With a view to ensuring transparency and democratic scrutiny, Commission proposals for the selection of projects should be submitted to the committee.

Amendment 6
Article 10, paragraph 2, point (d b) (new)

(db) the choice of pilot projects, as provided for in Article 7.

Justification

With a view to ensuring transparency and democratic scrutiny, Commission proposals for the selection of projects should be submitted to the committee.

Amendment 7
Article 10, paragraph 3 a (new)

3a. The Commission shall give the European Parliament and the Council regular and timely notice of the implementation of the programme, in particular the use of the available resources.

Justification

The two arms of the budgetary authority should receive regular, timely information in order to ensure that the programme is monitored and assessed in an effective manner.

Amendment 8
Article 11, paragraph 2

2. Where reference is made to this paragraph, Articles 4 and 7 of Decision 1999/468/EC shall apply. The period laid down in Article 4(3) of Decision 1999/468/EC shall be set at two months.

deleted

(This amendment applies to the entire legislative proposal before us; should it be adopted, suitable adjustments will need to be made throughout the text, with particular reference to Articles 10(2) and 15 and section 1.1. of chapter 2 of the annex.)

Justification

The advisory procedure is the Committee on Budgets' standard approach to ensuring that procedures are effective. This is a horizontal amendment that also affects Articles 10(2) and section 1.1. of chapter 2 of the annex.

Amendment 9
Article 14, paragraph 1, first subparagraph

1. The Commission shall ***monitor the programme regularly. The results of the process of monitoring and evaluation shall be taken into account in the implementation of the programme.***

1. The Commission shall ***ensure that the actions covered by this Decision are subjected to prior evaluation, monitoring and ex-post evaluation. It shall ensure that the programme is accessible and is implemented in a transparent manner.***

Justification

The programme needs to be monitored and evaluated at the appropriate times, so as to ensure democratic scrutiny.

Amendment 10
Article 14, paragraph 3

3. The Commission shall present to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions:

- (a) an interim evaluation report on the results and the qualitative and quantitative aspects of implementing the programme by 31 December 2010 at the latest;
- (b) a Communication on the continuation of the programme by 31 December 2011 at the latest;
- (c) an ex-post evaluation report by 31 December 2015 at the latest.

3. The Commission shall present to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions:

- (a) an interim evaluation report on the results and the qualitative and quantitative aspects of implementing the programme, ***three years after its adoption;***
- (b) a Communication on the continuation of the programme, ***four years after its adoption;***
- (c) ***a detailed*** ex-post evaluation report ***covering the implementation and results of the programme, on completion of its implementation.***

Justification

The programme needs to be monitored and evaluated at the appropriate times, so as to ensure democratic scrutiny.

PROCEDURE

Title	Proposal for a European Parliament and Council decision concerning the implementation of a programme of support for the European audiovisual sector (MEDIA 2007)
References	COM(2004)0470 – C6-0093/2004 – 2004/0151(COD)
Committee responsible	CULT
Committee asked for its opinion Date announced in plenary	BUDG 15.9.2004
Enhanced cooperation	yes
Drafts(wo)man Date appointed	Brigitte Douay 31.1.2005
Discussed in committee	13.7.2005
Date suggestions adopted	0.0.0000
Result of final vote	for: 14 against: 0 abstentions: 1
Members present for the final vote	Brigitte Douay, Bárbara Dührkop Dührkop, Salvador Garriga Polledo, Ingeborg Gräßle, Nathalie Griesbeck, Catherine Guy-Quint, Anne Elisabet Jensen, Wiesław Stefan Kuc, Janusz Lewandowski, Vladimír Maňka, Nina Škottová, Helga Trüpel, Yannick Vaugrenard, Kyösti Tapio Virrankoski
Substitutes present for the final vote	Lidia Joanna Geringer de Oedenberg
Substitutes under Rule 178(2)	