

An intervention by the Conciliation Committee in the Community decision-making process (9 December 1999)

Caption: Example of an agreement concluded between the Council and the European Parliament in the Conciliation Committee.

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An intervention by the Conciliation Committee in the Community decision-making process

Brussels, 9 December 1999

PRESS RELEASE

Parliament-Council Conciliation Committee: Agreement on “Culture 2000 Programme”

The “Culture 2000 programme”, the Community’s new single financing and programming instrument for cultural co-operation, is now ready for adoption by the Council and the European Parliament, following agreement today in the Conciliation Committee ⁽¹⁾. The legal act will shortly be formally adopted by both Institutions, requiring an absolute majority of the votes cast in the Parliament and unanimity in the Council.

Agreement was finally reached on a total budget of 167 MEURO for a 5-year period (1 January 2000 to 31 December 2004). The budget breakdown in terms of “indicative guidelines” between the different types of actions is the following:

- a maximum of 45% for specific innovative and/or experimental actions;
- a minimum of 35% for integrated actions;
- 10% for special cultural events;
- 10% for remaining expenditure.

The new “Culture 2000 programme” aims at rationalising and strengthening the effectiveness of cultural co-operation actions, within a single programme and replaces the three current cultural programmes KALEIDOSCOPE (artistic and cultural activities), ARIANE (books) and RAPHAEL (cultural heritage).

The objectives of the “Culture 2000” programme are to contribute to the promotion of a cultural area common to the European people, supporting co-operation between creative artists, cultural operators, private and public promoters, the activities of the cultural networks and other partners as well as the cultural institutions of the Member States in order to attain:

- promotion of cultural dialogue and of mutual knowledge of the culture and history of the European peoples;
- promotion of creativity and the trans-national dissemination of culture and the movement of artists, creators and other cultural operators and professionals and their works, with a strong emphasis on young people and socially disadvantaged people and on cultural diversity;
- the highlighting of cultural diversity and the development of new forms of cultural expression;
- sharing and highlighting, at the European level, the common cultural heritage of European significance; disseminating know-how and promoting good practices concerning its conservation and safeguarding;
- taking into account the role of culture in socio-economic development;
- the fostering of intercultural dialogue and mutual exchange between European and non-European cultures;
- explicit recognition of culture as an economic factor and as a factor in social integration and citizenship.

The “Culture 2000 programme” shall be open to the participation by the countries of the European

Economic Area and also to participation by Cyprus and the associated countries of Central and Eastern Europe. It shall also permit joint action with international organisations competent in the field of culture such as UNESCO or the Council of Europe.

(1) The Conciliation Committee has 30 members: 15 members from the European Parliament and 15 representatives of the Council. The meeting of 9 December was co-chaired by Mr Renzo IMBENI, Vice-President of the European Parliament and by the President-in-Office of the Council, Ms Suvi LINDEN, Minister for Culture of Finland.