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COMMISSION REPORT

on co-operation with European
non-governmental development
organisations (NGDOs) in those fields
of importance to developing countries

(1996 financial year)

SUMMARY

1. At its meeting of 28 November 1977 the Council approved the procedure to be followed in using appropriations under item B7-6000 of the Community budget for cofinancing operations with non-governmental development organisations (NGDOs).¹

Under this procedure the Commission is required to present an annual report to the Council on the use of the appropriations allocated during the preceding financial year.

The Commission is presenting this report for 1976.

2. Although the Council's requirement only concerns appropriations under item B7-6000, the report also covers other major spheres of co-operation with NGDOs such as food aid, humanitarian aid, special programmes and co-ordination between NGDOs. The various contributions made by the relevant Commission departments provide an overview.

¹ See Council document R/207/78 (GCD) of 26 January 1978.

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INTRODUCTION

Over the last 20 years co-operation between the European Development NGOs and the EC has kept pace with the solidarity shown by the citizens of Europe through their support for the work of the NGOs with the poor and marginalized in the developing countries. The EC mainly contributes through the cofinancing of NGO development programmes in developing countries and awareness raising campaigns on development issues in Europe, through the provision of food aid and food security programmes, the provision of humanitarian aid and assistance in many other more specialised areas.

Despite the reduction of financial resources for development co-operation in recent years and the current budgetary restrictions to which the Commission is subject, there has been a steady commitment of EC financial resources made available to NGOs.

In 1996 more than 703.6 MECU¹ was allocated to NGOs for development and humanitarian activities in developing countries from the EC budget (compared to 821.5 in 1995 and 803.3 in 1994)

In addition NGOs have played a significant role in the implementation of programmes within the EU's Asian and Latin American programmes and in the implementation of EDF (European Development Fund) programmes.

The special budget line for cofinancing of development schemes with European NGOs amounted to 175 MECU¹ in 1996 compared to 174 MECU¹ in 1995 and 145 MECU¹ in 1994.

This annual report is focused in Section I on NGO operations cofinanced by the Commission under heading B7-6000. Owing to the large number of such operations, the lists of development projects and development awareness raising campaigns have not been attached to the report. These are obtainable from the Directorate-General for Development (DG VIII/B/2)

Section II of the report "other areas of Cooperation" provides information on the other main sectors of EC development aid in which NGOs play an important role, financed by the EC budget and under Articles 254 and 255 of the Lomé Convention IV.

¹ 1 MECU transferred from Budget line B7-6006 (assistance for NGOs working in Cuba)

EUROPEAN COMMUNITY CO-OPERATION WITH DEVELOPMENT NGOs IN
1996

The range of EC budget headings on which NGOs drew in 1996 reflects their role in almost all aspects of EC development co-operation programmes.

The following table covers the main areas of co-operation with NGOs.

	1996	1995
1 Cofinancing of development projects in developing countries	MECU 155	MECU 139.9
2 Cofinancing of awareness raising of development issues in Europe	18.3	16.0
3 Cofinancing of Liaison Committee of European NGOs and evaluations, etc	1.7	1.4
4 Food aid	111.2	214.0
5 Humanitarian aid (ECHO)	301 ¹	328
6 Rehabilitation programmes in developing countries	42.8	44.0
7 Rehabilitation programmes in Southern Africa	14.6	13.9
8 Assistance for refugees and displaced persons	25.4	15.7
9 Special programme for South Africa	13.6	48.6
10 Other budget lines accessible to NGOs (Vietnam, Cambodia, Health, environment, etc) ²	20 ³	n/a

The Community contribution from the EC budget to NGO projects in 1996 amounts to approximately 703,6 MECU.

¹ Approximate figure. Humanitarian assistance channelled through NGOs represented 46% of the total Budget in 1996.

² Exclusive of NGO projects funded under the EDF, ALA, MEDA funds.

³ Approximate figures.

I. EC COFINANCING OF PROJECTS IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND DEVELOPMENT AWARENESS RAISING CAMPAIGNS IN EUROPE CARRIED OUT BY EUROPEAN NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS
(item B7-6000 of the Budget)

1.1. General Overview

The main objectives of the programme in 1996 were:

- In developing countries to support local initiatives developed in partnership with European NGOs to fight poverty at the grassroots;
- Within the EU, to support activities to increase awareness in Europe of the problems faced by developing countries and the interrelationship of the North and South and to support the strengthening of co-operation between European NGOs themselves, between European NGOs and the Community institutions via the NGDO-EC Liaison Committee.

As in previous years, the Commission channelled approximately 90% of the appropriations under item B7-6000 into the cofinancing of operations conducted in developing countries, the balance going towards the cofinancing of activities to heighten public awareness in the European Community and support for the NGDO-EC Liaison Committee.

The commitment appropriations entered in the 1996 budget under item B7-6000 amounted to ECU 174 million (plus 1 MECU added from budget item B7-6006 for NGOs in Cuba).

In 1996 this amount was fully committed and a total of 824 projects cofinanced.

The following table gives an overview of the number of projects dealt with and cofinanced by the Commission's NGO cofinancing unit in 1996:

	No. of projects dealt with in 1996	No. of projects cofinanced in 1996	No. of projects rejected in 1996	No. of projects carried over to 1997
Projects in Developing countries	1,254	645	179	430
Awareness raising projects on development issues in Europe	276	179	33	64
Total	1,530	824	212	494

The Commission's NGO cofinancing unit handles this large number of requests in accordance with the criteria and rules laid down in the General Conditions for Cofinancing.¹ In examining each dossier, particular consideration is given to the professionalism and financial soundness of the NGO, the quality of the project, the Southern partner's operational capacity and the quality of the ties between it and the European NGDO, the expected impact of the project, its viability and the potential multiplier effect for the target groups concerned.

1.2 1996 EC Co-financing programme of projects in Developing Countries carried out by European Development NGOs.

1.2.1 Main Features of the 1996 Programme.

In 1996, 645 projects were cofinanced totalling 154.5 MECU accounting for 90% of commitments under B7-6000, including 164 Block Grants.

The Commission continued to prioritise NGO projects which showed a strong commitment to grass roots development and to groups which do not have access to official development co-operation. Projects were supported in both rural and urban areas with a notable increase in urban projects. The key sectors of intervention were rural development, education and training, health, economic activities including microcredit support for small businesses and social support projects.

Special encouragement continued to be given to NGO projects:

- In countries undergoing rehabilitation or transition to democracy.
- To strengthen the capacity of Southern partners of European NGOs.
- In the Mediterranean and Arab world as part of the EU's support for emerging civil society.

Considerable importance continues to be attached to projects involving women and the Commission has cofinanced a number of projects designed to enhance their access to education and training and income-generating activities in both urban and rural areas.

Street children are another important group of beneficiaries. Increasing awareness of the scale of the vulnerability of children in poverty to the sex tourism industry has given an added impetus to prioritising this vulnerable group and several innovative projects were approved in 1996 which combine access to education and income-generating opportunities for the families involved.

¹ Commission of the European Communities, "General Conditions for the cofinancing of projects undertaken in developing countries by Non-governmental Organizations (doc. VIII/764/87) and "General Conditions for the cofinancing of projects to raise public awareness of development projects carried out by Non-governmental Organizations (doc. VIII/271/87).