

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

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DOCUMENT 1-1495/83

REPORT

drawn up on behalf of the Committee on External
Economic Relations

on the proposal from the Commission of the European
Communities to the Council (Doc. 1-1267/83) for a
Council Regulation on the conclusion of the Cooperation
Agreement between the European Economic Community, of
the one part, and the Cartagena Agreement and the member
countries thereof - Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and
Venezuela - of the other part

Rapporteur: Mr J. van AERSSEN

OPINION OF THE COMMITTEE ON BUDGETS

Letter of the chairman of the Committee to Sir Fred CATHERWOOD,
Chairman of the Committee on External Economic Relations

Brussels, 23 March 1984

Subject: Proposed Regulation concerning the conclusion of a cooperation agreement between the European Community and the countries of the Andean Pact (COM(83) 664 - Doc. 1-1267/83)

Dear Sir Fred,

The Committee on Budgets recently^{1, 2} discussed this proposed Regulation, and welcomes this evidence of further cooperation between the Community and various countries in South America.

With regard to the financial consequences of the proposed agreement, the Committee on Budgets underlines that in principle they can only be determined during the annual budgetary procedure. In fact, Article 1.3 of the draft agreement mentioned that "adequate means" (including financial means) will be employed to achieve the objectives of the agreement, but the Commission nowhere attempts to estimate - not even in the Explanatory Statement - the level of appropriations necessary to ensure that the cooperation agreement operates satisfactorily.

The 1984 Community Budget contains 218 mECU for financial and technical cooperation with non-associated developing countries (Article 930)³, and the Commission has made it clear that it will undertake only those operations which fall within the framework of existing budget lines. It made this declaration for inclusion in the Council's minutes, and it is repeated in paragraph 3 of the Explanatory Statement of COM(83) 664.

The Committee on Budgets emphasizes its fundamental opposition to this type of declaration by the Commission to the Council; it bypasses Parliament's consultative and budgetary powers. In this particular case, it should be noted that Article 930 relates to only some of the activities of Article 1 of the draft agreement. Thus, a declaration on which Parliament is not consulted has the effect of limiting considerably the draft agreement on which its opinion is sought.

¹ At its meeting of 22 March 1984

² See overleaf for list of those present

³ plus minor amounts in Articles 931 (8 mECU, trade relations) and 932 (0.85 mECU, sub-regional cooperation)

The Committee on Budgets would like to make two points regarding the procedure of consultation:

- As it has mentioned previously, consultation would be more effective if Parliament's opinion was sought before the Commission received its negotiating mandate from Council and not simply between the conclusion of a draft agreement and its signing.
- The Commission has negotiated with the countries of the Andean Pact a protocol extending the provisions of the draft cooperation agreement to the fields covered by the European Coal and Steel Community (see the protocol attached to COM(83) 664), and will adopt this protocol when the cooperation agreement is signed. Council's consultation of Parliament does not extend to this protocol. Parliament should seek to give its opinion on this protocol also.

Yours sincerely,

Erwin LANGE

The following were present: Mr Lange, chairman; Mr Notenboom, vice-chairman; Mrs Barbarella, vice-chairman; Mr Abens, Mr Gouthier, Mr Helms (deputizing for Mr Konrad Schön), Mr Kellett-Bowman, Mr Langes, Mr Louwes, Mrs Nikolaou and Mr Pfennig

