

37(20)

OTHER DECISIONS

(Adopted without discussion. In the case of legislative acts, votes against and abstentions are indicated. Decisions including statements to which the Council has decided to grant public access are indicated by asterisks; the statements in question may be obtained from the Press Office.)

Education

Extension of the TEMPUS II programme

The Council decided to extend the second phase of the trans-European cooperation scheme for higher education (TEMPUS II) (1994-1998) for a period of two years beginning on 1 July 1998.

The objectives of TEMPUS II are to promote, within the framework of the general guidelines and objectives of the PHARE and TACIS programmes for economic and social reform, the development of higher education systems in the partner countries (countries of Central and Eastern Europe, countries of the former Soviet Union, and Mongolia) through cooperation which is as balanced as possible, with partners from all European Union Member States.

The Council Decision of 29 April 1993 adopting the TEMPUS II scheme made provision for an interim evaluation of the programme before 30 April 1996. That evaluation showed that TEMPUS was able to make an effective contribution in the partner countries to the diversification of the education offered and to inter-university cooperation, thus creating conditions favourable to the development of scientific, cultural and economic cooperation.

Industry/Telecommunications

New policy priorities regarding the information society

The Council formally adopted the Resolution on new policy priorities regarding the information society which the Industry Council had already approved at its meeting on 8 October 1996; the text in question is given in Press Release 10450/96 Presse 258.

Multiannual programme for the promotion of the linguistic diversity of Europe in the information society*

Further to the agreement reached at the Council meeting on 8 October 1996, the Council formally adopted the multiannual programme to promote the linguistic diversity of Europe in the information society (see Press Release 10450/96 Presse 258).