



COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

Brussels, 24.04.1995  
SEC(95) 649 final

94/0199 (COD)

37(2)

COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION  
TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

pursuant to the second subparagraph of Article 189 b (2) of the EC-Treaty

**Council's common position on the adoption of a decision establishing  
1996 as the European Year of Lifelong Learning**

# COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

**Subject: Council's common position on the adoption of a decision establishing 1996 as the European Year of Lifelong Learning**

## 1 INTRODUCTION

Pursuant to Article 189 B of the EC Treaty the purpose of this document is to present the Commission's position on the Council's common position of 20/04/95. The Commission's position takes account of the adoption by the European Parliament on 16 March 1995 of its opinion on the Commission proposal (COM(94)264 final) at its first reading.

## 2 THE COMMISSION'S POSITION ON THE COMMON POSITION

2.1 The Council's common position is based on the Commission's proposal as modified on the basis of the amendments tabled by the European Parliament. The Council has taken due account of the spirit rather than the form of the amendments voted through by the Parliament and 26 (i.e. 66%) of these amendments have thus been taken on board in the common position.

The vast majority of the changes made by the Council are intended to clarify, simplify or make explicit. The form of the proposal has been slightly changed (in particular the balance between the Articles and the Annex) but the text of the common position does not contain any substantial differences in relation to the Commission's proposal.

2.2 The Commission wishes to point out that the Council has unanimously supported the principle of the proclamation of a European Year of Lifelong Learning. The salient points of convergence mentioned during the negotiations include:

- the importance of lifelong learning as the only way for people to adjust to the rapidly changing requirements of society as an individual and as part of a group;
- the stress laid on equal opportunities, the fight against all forms of discrimination and against social exclusion;
- the need to promote all forms of education and training by involving all the players concerned;