

EDUCATION

TEMPUS III programme

The Council adopted the Decision modifying Decision 1999/311/EC of 29 April 1999 adopting the third phase of the trans-European cooperation scheme for higher education (TEMPUS III) for the period 2000 to 2006 to redefine the eligible countries.

TEMPUS III is aimed at the non-associated countries of Central and Eastern Europe eligible under the PHARE programme and the new independent States of the former Soviet Union and Mongolia mentioned in Regulation 99/2000 of 29 December 1999 concerning the provision of assistance to the partner States in Eastern Europe and Central Asia (replacing the former TACIS programme).

This Decision deletes the footnote to Article 2 of Decision 1999/311/EC, limiting the TEMPUS III programme to Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia where the Central and Eastern European countries are concerned, and creates the scope for extending the programme to other countries in the region in future, notably Croatia, which was suspended from the TEMPUS II programme in 1995.

LABOUR AND SOCIAL POLICY

Protection of workers from risks related to exposure to biological agents

The Council adopted the Directive on the protection of workers from risks related to exposure to biological agents at work (seventh individual directive within the meaning of Article 16(1) of Directive 89/391/EEC of 12 June 1989 on the introduction of measures to encourage improvements in the safety and health of workers at work).

The Council then proceeded to consolidate the old Directive 90/679/EEC of 26 November 1990 with the same title. The substance of that Directive had been amended on several occasions. Directive 90/679/EEC, as amended, is repealed with the entry into force of the consolidated Directive.

The Directive has as its aim the protection of workers against the risks to their health and safety, including the prevention of such risks, arising or likely to arise from exposure to biological agents at work. It lays down minimum requirements to that end.