

Proposal for a Decision of the European Parliament and of the Council extending certain programmes of Community action in the field of public health adopted by Decisions No 645/96/EC, No 646/96/EC, No 647/96/EC, No 102/97/EC, No 1400/97/EC and No 1296/1999/EC and amending those Decisions

(2000/C 365 E/07)

(Text with EEA relevance)

COM(2000) 448 final — 2000/0192(COD)

(Submitted by the Commission on 25 July 2000)

THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community, and in particular Article 152 thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the Commission,

Having regard to the opinion of the Economic and Social Committee,

Having regard to the opinion of the Committee of the Regions,

Acting in accordance with the procedure laid down in Article 251 of the Treaty,

Whereas:

(1) A number of programmes of Community action within the framework for action in the field of public health are to expire shortly.

(2) The following expire at the end of 2000:

— the programme of Community action on health promotion, information, education and training, adopted by Decision No 645/96/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council ⁽¹⁾,

— the action plan to combat cancer, adopted by Decision No 646/96/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council ⁽²⁾.

— the programme of Community action on the prevention of AIDS and certain other communicable diseases, adopted by Decision No 647/96/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council ⁽³⁾,

— the programme of Community action on the prevention of drug dependence, adopted by Decision No 102/97/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council ⁽⁴⁾.

(3) The following expire at the end of 2001:

— the programme of Community action on health monitoring, adopted by Decision No 1400/97/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council ⁽⁵⁾,

— the programme of Community action on pollution-related diseases, adopted by Decision No 1296/1999/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council ⁽⁶⁾.

(4) The Council, in its Resolution of 8 June 1999 on the future Community action in the field of public health ⁽⁷⁾, stressed the need for continuity of Community action in the field of public health in the light of the perspective of expiry of existing programmes.

(5) The Commission, in its Communication of 15 April 1998 to the Council, the European Parliament, the Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions on the development of public health policy in the European Community ⁽⁸⁾, indicated that existing public health programmes will be coming to an end from the end of year 2000 onwards and stressed that there is a need to ensure that there is no vacuum in Community policy in this important field. The subsequent debate on that communication resulted in a consensus among the Community Institutions in favour of developing a new health strategy with an overall public health programme of action in the field of public health.

(6) While a new strategy and proposals for a new, overall, public health programme are being considered, the present programmes in the public health area should be extended until the end of 2002 in order to avoid any interruption in the Community action concerned.

(7) The Agreement on the European Economic Area (EEA) provides for greater cooperation in the field of public health between the Community and its Member States, on the one hand, and the countries of the European Free Trade Association participating in the EEA (EFTA/EEA countries), on the other. Provision should also be made to open the programmes in the field of

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 95, 16.4.1996, p. 1.

⁽²⁾ OJ L 95, 16.4.1996, p. 9.

⁽³⁾ OJ L 95, 16.4.1996, p. 16.

⁽⁴⁾ OJ L 19, 22.1.1997, p. 25.

⁽⁵⁾ OJ L 193, 22.7.1997, p. 1.

⁽⁶⁾ OJ L 155, 22.6.1999, p. 7.

⁽⁷⁾ OJ C 200, 15.7.1999, p. 1.

⁽⁸⁾ COM(1998) 230 final.

public health to participation of the associated Central and Eastern European countries in accordance with the conditions established in the Europe Agreements, in their additional protocols and in the decisions of the respective Association Councils, of Cyprus, funded by additional appropriations in accordance with the procedures to be agreed with that country, as well as of Malta and Turkey, funded by additional appropriations, in accordance with the provisions of the Treaty.

(8) In extending the programmes, account should be taken of the Communication of 15 June 2000 from the Commission to the Council, the European Parliament, the Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions, on the health strategy of the European Community⁽¹⁾, the Council Conclusions of 26 November 1998 on the future framework for Community action in the field of public health⁽²⁾, the Council Resolution of 8 June 1999 on the future Community action in the field of public health, the European Parliament Resolution of 12 March 1999⁽³⁾, the opinion of the Economic and Social Committee of 9 September 1998⁽⁴⁾ and the opinion of the Committee of the Regions of 19 November 1998⁽⁵⁾. Account should also be taken of the interim report from the Commission of 14 October 1999 to the European Parliament, the Council, the Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions on the implementation of the programmes of Community action on the prevention of cancer, AIDS and certain other communicable diseases, and drug dependence within the framework for action in the field of public health⁽⁶⁾, and the interim report from the Commission of 22 March 2000 to the European Parliament, the Council, the Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions on the implementation of the programme of Community action on health promotion, information, education and training⁽⁷⁾.

(9) The present Decision lays down, for the period of extension of the action programmes, the financial framework constituting the prime reference, within the meaning of point 33 of the Interinstitutional Agreement of 6 May 1999 between the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission on budgetary discipline and improvement of the budgetary procedure⁽⁸⁾, for the budgetary authority during the annual budgetary procedure.

(10) Decisions No 645/96/EC, No 646/96/EC, No 647/96/EC, No 102/97/EC, No 1400/97/EC and No 1296/1999/EC should be amended to take account of Council Decision 1999/468/EC of 28 June 1999 laying down the

procedures for the exercise of implementing powers of the Commission⁽⁹⁾.

(11) The action programmes should be monitored and continuously evaluated in cooperation between the Commission and the Member States,

HAVE DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1

Extension

1. The following shall be extended from 1 January 2001 until 31 December 2002:

- (a) the programme of Community action on health promotion, information, education and training adopted by Decision No 645/96/EC,
- (b) the plan of action to combat cancer adopted by Decision No 646/96/EC,
- (c) the programme of action for the prevention of AIDS and certain other communicable diseases adopted by Decision No 647/96/EC,
- (d) the programme of action for the prevention of drug dependence adopted by Decision No 102/97/EC.

2. The following shall be extended from 1 January 2002 until 31 December 2002:

- (a) the programme of action on health monitoring adopted by Decision No 1400/97/EC,
- (b) the programme of action on pollution-related diseases adopted by Decision No 1296/1999/EC.

Article 2

Budget

1. The total financial framework for the implementation of the programmes and plan referred to in Article 1 for the period 1 January 2001 to 31 December 2002 shall be EUR 79,1 million.

2. The financial framework for the implementation for the period 1 January 2001 to 31 December 2002 of the programme of action on health promotion, information, education and training shall be EUR 8,5 million, that of the plan of action on cancer shall be EUR 31,142 million, that of the programme of action on the prevention of drug dependence shall be EUR 11,434 million and that of the programme of action on the prevention of AIDS and certain other communicable diseases shall be EUR 22,324 million.

⁽¹⁾ COM(2000) 285 final.

⁽²⁾ OJ C 390, 15.12.1998, p. 1.

⁽³⁾ OJ C 175, 21.6.1999, p. 135.

⁽⁴⁾ OJ C 407, 28.12.1998, p. 21.

⁽⁵⁾ OJ C 51, 22.2.1999, p. 53.

⁽⁶⁾ COM(1999) 463 final.

⁽⁷⁾ COM(2000) 165 final.

⁽⁸⁾ OJ C 172, 18.6.1999, p. 1.

⁽⁹⁾ OJ L 184, 17.7.1999, p. 23.

3. The financial framework for the implementation for the period 1 January 2002 to 31 December 2002 of the programme of action on health monitoring shall be EUR 4,4 million and that of the programme of action on pollution-related diseases shall be EUR 1,3 million.

4. Annual appropriations shall be authorised by the budgetary authority within the limits of the financial perspective.

Article 3

Adaptation of the committee procedure

1. Article 5 of Decisions No 645/96/EC, No 646/96/EC, No 647/96/EC, No 102/97/EC and No 1400/97/EC is amended as follows:

(a) Paragraph 1 is replaced by the following:

'1. The Commission shall be assisted by a committee composed of representatives of the Member States and chaired by the representative of the Commission.'

(b) In paragraph 2, the second and third subparagraphs are replaced by the following:

'The management procedure laid down in Article 4 of Decision 1999/468/EC shall apply for the adoption of the measures referred to in the first subparagraph of this paragraph, in compliance with Article 7 and Article 8 of Decision 1999/468/EC. The period provided for in Article 4(3) of Decision 1999/468/EC shall be two months.'

(c) Paragraph 3 is replaced by the following:

'3. In addition, the Commission may consult the Committee on any other matter concerning the implementation of this decision. In this case, the advisory procedure laid down in Article 3 of Decision 1999/468/EC shall apply, in compliance with Article 7 and Article 8 thereof.'

2. Article 5 of Decision No 1296/1999/EC is amended as follows:

(a) Paragraph 1 is replaced by the following:

'1. The Commission shall be assisted by a committee composed of representatives of the Member States and chaired by the representative of the Commission.'

(b) In paragraph 2, the second, third and fourth subparagraphs are replaced by the following:

'The advisory procedure laid down in Article 3 of Decision 1999/468/EC shall apply for the adoption of the measures

referred to in the first subparagraph of this paragraph, in compliance with Article 7 and Article 8 of Decision 1999/468/EC.'

Article 4

Participation of the EFTA/EEA countries, the associated Central and Eastern European countries, Cyprus, Malta and Turkey

The programmes referred to in Article 1 shall be open to the participation of:

- (a) The EFTA/EEA countries in accordance with the conditions established in the EEA Agreement;
- (b) The associated countries of Central and Eastern Europe, in accordance with the conditions laid down in the Europe Agreements, in their Additional Protocols and in the Decisions of the respective Association Councils;
- (c) Cyprus, funded by additional appropriations in accordance with the procedures to be agreed with that country;
- (d) Malta and Turkey, funded by additional appropriations in accordance with the provisions of the Treaty.

Article 5

Monitoring and evaluation

1. In the implementation of this Decision, the Commission in cooperation with the Member States shall take the necessary measures to ensure the monitoring and evaluation of the activities provided under the programmes and plan referred to in Article 1.

2. The Commission shall submit a report to the European Parliament and to the Council upon completion of the programmes and plan referred to in Article 1. It shall include in this report the results of the evaluation mentioned in the first paragraph of this Article. The report shall also be submitted to the Economic and Social Committee and to the Committee of the Regions.

Article 6

Entry into force

This Decision shall enter into force on the date of its publication in the *Official Journal of the European Communities*.

It shall apply from 1 January 2001.