



Proposals for Project Funding

Proposals for renewal of EU legislation that provides funding for environmental projects in developing countries were approved by the Parliament in May, 1999.

This aid is additional to environmental funding provided to former European colonies under the Lomé Convention and through cooperation agreements with Latin America, Asia, the Middle East, and North Africa. The money is disbursed from a separate budget line, established at the Parliament's instigation and based on legislation adopted in 1997. That budget line had been allotted \$48 million over the past three years, but the regulation is due to expire at the end of 1999.

In a proposal for a new regulation (COM(99)0036), the Commission proposed that the legislation be of unlimited duration but subject to review after four years. Total

funding to be allocated under the regulation will be determined each Autumn as part of EU budget-framing procedures.

In the vote, which took place without debate and without reply from the Commission, members suggested more than 50 amendments, mainly concerned with management of the programme and seeking to extend the categories of qualifying projects to additional activities, ranging from promotion of "fair trade" products to information campaigns on hazardous substances, toxic waste, and pesticides.

The draft will now go to the Council of Ministers, where national governments will determine their own common position in light of the suggested amendments, and then back to the European Parliament for a further vote. □

0378-777X/99/\$12.00 © 1999 IOS Press