



COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

Brussels, 01.12.1998
SEC(1998) 2045 final

98/0282 (COD)

COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION
TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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

Common position of the Council on a Proposal for a Parliament and Council Decision amending Decision No 2085/97/EC establishing a programme of support, including translation, in the field of books and reading (Ariane)

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1. BACKGROUND

- a) Date of adoption by the Commission: 23.09.1998
- b) Date on which proposal sent to the Council and Parliament: 25.9.1998
- c) Date of Parliament's opinion at first reading: 9.10.1998
- d) Date on which amended proposal sent: 29.10.1998
- e) Date of adoption of the common position (written procedure): 17.11.1998

2. SUBJECT OF THE COMMISSION'S PROPOSAL

The aim of the proposal is to amend Decision No 2085/97/EC to extend the Ariane programme through 1999 in order to ensure continuity in the Community's activities in the field of books and reading until the "Culture 2000" programme comes into force, which it should do on 1 January 2000.

3. COMMENTS ON THE COMMON POSITION

3.1. Brief general remarks on the common position

In its common position the Council approved the Commission's amended proposal, which included the sole amendment proposed by Parliament.

3.2. Amendments proposed by Parliament on first reading

The common position takes over the sole amendment presented by Parliament at first reading, which would increase the overall financial package for the programme from EUR 7 million to EUR 11.1 million.

4. CONCLUSIONS

The Commission considers that the Council common position will ensure continuity in the Community's activities in the field of books and reading until the "Culture 2000" programme comes into force, which it should do on 1 January 2000.