

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

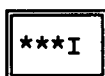


session documents

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REPORT

on the proposal for a European Parliament and Council Decision establishing a support programme in the field of books and reading, 'ARIANE' (COM(94)0356 - C4-0198/94 - 94/0189(COD))

Committee on Culture, Youth, Education and the Media

Rapporteur: Mrs Nana Mouskouri

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PE 211.117/fin
el - Or. fr/en

- * Consultation procedure
simple majority
- **I Cooperation procedure (first reading)
simple majority
- **II Cooperation procedure (second reading)
simple majority to approve the common position
absolute majority of Parliament's component Members to reject or amend the common position
- *** Assent procedure
absolute majority of Parliament's component Members to give assent
except for simple majority under Articles 8a, 105, 106, 130d and 228 EC

- ***I Codecision procedure (first reading)
simple majority
- ***II Codecision procedure (second reading)
simple majority to approve the common position
absolute majority of Parliament's component Members either to adopt a declaration of intent to reject the common position, or to amend or confirm the rejection of the common position
- ***III Codecision procedure (third reading)
simple majority to approve the joint text
absolute majority of Parliament's component Members to reject the Council text

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By letter of 25 October 1994 the Commission submitted to Parliament, pursuant to Rule 189b(2) of the EC Treaty and Article 128 of the EC Treaty, the proposal for a European Parliament and Council Decision establishing a support programme in the field of books and reading, 'ARIANE'.

At the sitting of 30 November 1994 the President of Parliament announced that he had referred this proposal to the Committee on Culture, Youth, Education and the Media as the committee responsible and the Committee on Budgets and the Committee on External Economic Relations for their opinions.

At its meeting of 14 November 1994 the Committee on Culture, Youth, Education and the Media had appointed Mrs Mouskouri rapporteur.

It considered the Commission proposal and the draft report at its meetings of 23 November 1994, and 30 January, 23 February and 22 March 1995.

At the last meeting it adopted the draft legislative resolution unopposed, with one abstention.

The following took part in the vote: Banotti, acting chairman; Sanz Fernandez, vice-chairman; Ahlqvist, André-Léonard, Aparicio Sanchez, Aramburu del Rio, Arroni, Augias, Bennasar (for Bianco), Boniperti, De Coene, Dillen, Escudero, Evans, Galeote Quecedo, Gröner, Heinisch, Kerr (for Elliott), Kokkola (for Hawlicek), Kristoffersen (for Mouskouri), Kuhne, Marin, Montesano, Morgan, Rosado Fernandes (for Guinebertière), Ryyananen, Tongue, Vaz da Silva and Walter (for Junker).

The opinion of the Committee on Budgets is attached; the Committee on External Economic Relations decided on 30 November 1994 not to deliver an opinion.

The report was tabled on 27 March 1995.

The deadline for tabling amendments will be indicated in the draft agenda for the relevant part-session.

A
LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL

Proposal for a European Parliament and Council Decision establishing a support programme in the field of books and reading, 'ARIANE' (COM(94)0356 - C4-/0198/94 - 94/0189(COD)).

The proposal is approved with the following amendments:

Text proposed by the Commission¹

Amendments by Parliament

(Amendment 1)

Title

Proposal for a European Parliament and Council Decision establishing a support programme in the field of books and reading 'ARIANE'

Proposal for a European Parliament and Council Decision establishing a support programme in the field of books and reading through translation 'ARIANE'

(Amendment 2)

Recital -2 (new)

Whereas in Greek mythology Ariadne gave Theseus the thread with which he found his way out of the labyrinth and the Ariane programme for translation might therefore be the thread with which people could acquire better knowledge of the history and culture of each of the Member States, and especially of the countries with less widely known languages;

(Amendment 3)

Recital -1 (new)

Whereas culture and cultural life are essential to the development and influence of the European Union,

¹ OJ C 324, 22.11.1994, p. 11.

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendments by Parliament

(Amendment 4)
Recital 1a (new)

Whereas access to culture helps Europeans to understand and respect one another and fosters the development of a European citizenship,

(Amendment 5)
Recital 1b (new)

Whereas in the age of the information society books are still one of the principal media for the dissemination of knowledge;

(Amendment 6)
Recital 1c (new)

Whereas the complementary relationship between books and audiovisual technology must be taken into account;

(Amendment 7)
Recital 1d (new)

Whereas although literary translations are of great importance, other measures to promote books and reading, as set out in the Gutenberg Programme, also need to be encouraged;

1

OJ C 42, 15.2.1993, p. 182.

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendments by Parliament

(Amendment 8)
Recital 1e (new)

Whereas any Community programme in the field of books needs to take account of their dual nature as both an economic and a cultural good,

(Amendment 9)
Recital 1f (new)

Whereas in accordance with Article 128(4) of the Treaty on European Union ('The Community shall take cultural aspects into account in its action under other provisions of this Treaty'), the economic rules must be adjusted to take account of the specific cultural characteristics of books (prices, VAT, etc.), leading to a better dissemination of works of literature, particularly those translated thanks to the ARIANE programme;

(Amendment 10)
Recital 1g (new)

Whereas Community programmes in the field of education and culture must contribute to encouraging reading as a leisure pursuit of particular importance;

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendments by Parliament

(Amendment 11)
Recital 1i (new)

Whereas the family, in the first place, and schools, in the second, should remain the principal places for the learning and encouragement of reading, thereby guaranteeing equal access to books for all;

(Amendment 12)
Recital 1j (new)

Whereas it is important to distinguish, in the book production chain, between creation, publishing, translation and dissemination and the ARIANE programme must be viewed as a first step towards a Community policy to promote books;

(Amendment 13)
Recital 2a (new)

Whereas, in the absence of translation, many literary treasures remain inaccessible to those without a command of the language in which they are published;

(Amendment 14)
Recital 3

Whereas it is necessary to encourage high-quality translation of literary works within the Community, in particular by advanced training in this field;

Whereas it is necessary to encourage high-quality translation of literary works within the Community, in particular by advanced training in this field and by the adoption of a professional status for translators;

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendments by Parliament

(Amendment 15)
Recital 3a (new)

Whereas, in order to achieve the desired aim, it is essential that professionals in the field covered by this programmes be kept informed;

(Amendment 16)
Recital 3b (new)

Whereas in the finished book it is necessary to distinguish between creation, translation, publishing and dissemination, and the ARIANE programme can only be viewed as a first step towards a Community policy to support books and reading;

(Amendment 17)

Recital 4

Whereas the Community institutions have recognized the importance of knowledge and dissemination of literary works, by means of translation in particular, as is apparent from:

- the Resolution of the Council and of the Ministers responsible for Cultural Affairs, meeting within the Council, of 9 November 1987 on the promotion of translation of important works of European culture¹,

- the resolution of the Council and the Ministers responsible for Cultural Affairs, meeting within the Council, of 18 May 1989 concerning the promotion of books and reading²,

- the Parliament Resolution on promoting books and reading in Europe³,

- the conclusions of the Council and the Ministers of Culture meeting within the Council of 12 November 1992 on guidelines for Community cultural action⁴,

- the Resolution of the Council and the Ministers meeting within the Council of 17 May 1993 on the promotion of the translation of contemporary European dramatic works⁵,

¹ OJ C 309, 19.11.1987, p. 3.

² OJ C 183, 20.07.1989, p. 1.

³ OJ C 42, 15.02.1993, p. 182.

⁴ OJ C 336, 19.12.1993, p. 1.

⁵ OJ C 160, 12.06.1993, p. 1.

Whereas the Community institutions have recognized the importance of knowledge and dissemination of literary works, by means of translation in particular, as is apparent from:

- the Resolution of the Council and of the Ministers responsible for Cultural Affairs, meeting within the Council, of 9 November 1987 on the promotion of translation of important works of European culture¹,

- the resolution of the Council and the Ministers responsible for Cultural Affairs, meeting within the Council, of 18 May 1989 concerning the promotion of books and reading²,

- the Commission communication of 3 August 1989 on books and reading: a cultural challenge for Europe,

- the Parliament resolutions of 10 July 1987 on the European dimension with regard to books (2a) and of 21 January 1993 on promoting books and reading in Europe³,

- the conclusions of the Council and the Ministers of Culture meeting within the Council of 12 November 1992 on guidelines for Community cultural action⁴,

- the Resolution of the Council and the Ministers meeting within the Council of 17 May 1993 on the promotion of the translation of contemporary European dramatic works⁵,

¹ OJ C 309, 19.11.1987, p. 3.

² OJ C 183, 20.07.1987, p. 1.

^{2a} OJ C 246, 14.09.1987, p. 136.

³ OJ C 42, 15.02.1993, p. 182.

⁴ OJ C 336, 19.12.1993, p. 1.

⁵ OJ C 160, 12.06.1993, p. 1.

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendments by Parliament

(Amendment 18)

Recital 4a (new)

Having regard to the resolutions adopted at the conferences of professionals in the field held as part of the awareness-raising campaign to promote books and reading, launched on the initiative of the EC Commission and the Council of Europe;

(Amendment 19)

Recital 4b (new)

Whereas, in spite of the priority which the Community authorities have given to promoting books and reading, the limited funds allocated to it are not sufficient to give material effect in the immediate future to a comprehensive book promotion policy;

(Amendment 20)

Recital 6a (new)

Having regard to the *modus vivendi* between the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission as regards measures to implement the acts adopted in accordance with the procedure laid down in Article 189b of the EC Treaty, adopted on 20 January 1995;

(Amendment 21)

Recital 6b (new)

Whereas, in accordance with the provisions laid down in Article 3(1) and (3) of the current Financial Regulation, the Commission has submitted the financial statement, comprising the planned schedule of annual requirements for the duration of the programme in question; whereas this financial statement, updated in accordance with the decisions of the budgetary authority and in line with the state of execution of the authorized appropriations, must be forwarded to the budgetary authority together with the preliminary draft budget;

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendments by Parliament

(Amendment 22)

Article 2

The aims of the programme shall be as follows:

- to encourage wider dissemination of works of contemporary literature that are representative of the culture of the Member States, giving priority to translations of works in the lesser known languages of the Community and promoting them through emblematic measures;

The aims of the programme shall be as follows:

- to encourage wider dissemination of works of contemporary literature that are representative of the culture of the Member States, giving priority to translations of works in the lesser known languages which are official or indigenous languages in the Member States of the European Union and promoting them through emblematic measures;

(Amendment 23)

Article 4, first paragraph

In carrying out the programme the Community and the Member States shall foster cooperation with non-member countries and with competent international organizations in the cultural sphere, and in particular the Council of Europe; every care shall be taken in relations with the latter to avoid duplication and ensure the complementarity of the measures proposed, while respecting the identity and autonomy of each institution and organization.

In carrying out the programme the Community and the Member States shall foster cooperation with non-member countries and with the Council of Europe and other competent international organizations in the cultural sphere, such as UNESCO; every care shall be taken in relations with the latter to avoid duplication and ensure the complementarity of the measures proposed, while respecting the identity and autonomy of each institution and organization.

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendments by Parliament

(Amendment 24)

Article 4, second paragraph

Specific arrangements are set out in the Annex for opening up the programme to the countries of Central and Eastern Europe that have signed and ratified association agreements with the European Community containing a clause on cultural affairs.

Specific arrangements are set out in the Annex for opening up the programme to the European countries deemed to fulfil the conditions for accession to the European Union (Cyprus and Malta), the countries which have signed the Agreement on the European Economic Area and the countries of Central and Eastern Europe that have signed and ratified association or cooperation agreements with the European Community containing a clause on cultural affairs.

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendments by Parliament

(Amendment 25)

Article 5

The Commission shall be responsible for implementing the programme. For the purpose of carrying out that task, the Commission shall be assisted by the Advisory Committee for the incentive measures in the cultural field laid down in Article 5 of Decision No ... of ... concerning the Kaleidoscope 2000 programme.

The Commission shall be responsible for implementing the programme. For the purpose of carrying out that task, the Commission shall be assisted by the Advisory Committee for the incentive measures in the cultural field laid down in Article 5 of Decision No ... of ... concerning the Kaleidoscope 2000 programme. This Advisory Committee shall be composed of experts selected by the Commission from a list of names submitted by each Member State and shall be chaired by a Commission representative. Authors, publishers, translators, booksellers and librarians shall be represented on this Committee. The Commission shall ensure that this Advisory Committee is balanced and representative and includes adequate representation of women, ethnic minorities, the regions and a member of the Council of Europe who has had previous experience in this field. The Commission shall appoint extra members of the Committee if necessary to achieve this aim. The Commission shall make public the membership of this Committee.

(Amendment 26)

Article 6, first paragraph

The representative of the Commission shall submit to the Committee a draft of the measures to be taken. The Committee shall deliver its opinion on the draft within a time limit which the chairman may lay down according to the urgency of the matter, if necessary by taking a vote.

In accordance with the provisions laid down in the *modus vivendi* of 20 January 1995 and the associated procedures, the representative of the Commission shall submit to the Committee a draft of the measures to be taken. The Committee shall deliver its opinion on the draft within a time limit which the chairman may lay down according to the urgency of the matter, if necessary by taking a vote.

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendments by Parliament

(Amendment 27)

Article 6, second paragraph

The opinion shall be recorded in the minutes; in addition, each Member State shall have the right to ask for its position to be recorded in the minutes.

The opinion shall be recorded in the minutes; each member of the Committee shall have the right to ask for his/her position to be recorded in the minutes; in addition, the minutes shall be available to any interested party.

(Amendment 28)

Article 7

After the programme has been in operation for two years, and within six months of that period, the Commission, having consulted the Committee referred to in Article 5, shall present a report on the result achieved to the European Parliament and the Council, and, where necessary, make appropriate proposals.

After the programme has been in operation for two years, the Commission shall present a detailed report on the result achieved to the European Parliament and the Council, and, where necessary, make appropriate proposals. This report shall place particular emphasis on the synergies developed by the Member States and the improved dissemination of literature in the less widely-used languages.

On the expiry of the programme, the Commission, acting in accordance with the procedure laid down in Article 6, shall submit a report to the European Parliament and the Council on the implementation and results of the programme.

On the expiry of the programme, the Commission shall submit a report to the European Parliament and the Council on the implementation and results of the programme.

(Amendment 29)

Annex
Title

Community support programme in the field of books and reading

Community support programme in the field of books and reading through translation

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendments by Parliament

(Amendment 30)

Annex

Section I: Promotion and circulation

1. Translation grants

- (a) Grants for the translation of works of contemporary literature to ensure wider dissemination through publication

Paragraph 3

In order to qualify, works must already have been translated and published in two Community languages (in addition to the original language). The grant is to subsidize translation into two additional languages.

In order to qualify, works must already have been translated and published in two languages which are official or indigenous languages in the Member States of the European Union (in addition to the original language). The grant is to subsidize translation into two additional languages.

(Amendment 31)

Annex

Section I: Promotion and circulation

1. Translation grants

- (a) Grants for the translation of works of contemporary literature to ensure wider dissemination through publication

Paragraph 4

In order to give priority to less well-known languages, works written in these languages can be directly eligible for a grant to subsidize translation into two additional Community languages, without having been previously translated into other Community languages.

In order to give priority to less well-known languages, works written in these languages can be directly eligible for a grant to subsidize translation into two additional languages which are official or indigenous languages in the Member States of the European Union, without having been previously translated into other Community languages.

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendments by Parliament

(Amendment 32)

ANNEX, Section I. Promotion and Circulation

1. Translation grants

(a) Grants for the translation of works of contemporary literature to ensure wider dissemination through publication

Paragraph 4a (new)

Works written in the most widely used Community languages by authors from smaller countries (e.g. English from Ireland or French from Luxembourg) may be eligible for a translation grant without having been previously translated into two other languages.

(Amendment 33)

Annex

Section I: Promotion and circulation

1. Translation grants

(a) Grants for the translation of works of contemporary literature to ensure wider dissemination through publication

Paragraph 5

Grants are also provided for the translation of works whose publication on the European market is not regarded as viable without a Community subsidy.

Grants are also provided for the translation of works whose publication on the European market is not regarded as viable without a Community subsidy. In this connection, it is important to consider giving special support to works produced by young authors and to new writers in general. Similarly, applications from small independent publishing companies should be given preference in order to ensure better representation of the diversity of literary works.

(Amendment 34)

Annex

Section I: Promotion and Circulation

1. Translation grants

Grants for the translation of works of contemporary literature to ensure wider dissemination through publication

Paragraph 6

Grant applications must be sent by one or more publishers from a Community Member State to the Commission - Cultural Unit (200, rue de la Loi - B-1049 Brussels). The application submitted by the publisher(s) must include the agreement of the translator(s). The grant may cover up to 100% of the translator's fee negotiated according to the usual market practice.

Grant applications must be sent by one or more publishers from a Community Member State to the Commission - Cultural Unit (200, rue de la Loi - B-1049 Brussels). The application submitted by the publisher(s) must include the agreement of the translator(s). The grant may cover up to 100% of the translator's fee negotiated according to the usual market practice and may cover 100% of the editing and distribution involved after the translation work is completed.

(Amendment 35)

Annex

Section I: Promotion and circulation

1. Translation grants

(a) Grants for the translation of works of contemporary literature to ensure wider dissemination through publication

Paragraph 6a (new)

Priority shall be given to publishers who have not previously had Community grants for the translation of works.

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendments by Parliament

(Amendment 36)

ANNEX, Section I. Promotion and Circulation

1. Translation grants

(c) Grants for the translation of reference works with a view to wider dissemination of information between the professionals and the competent authorities of the Member States

Paragraph 9

The Commission will periodically distribute a list with details of the works translated under this scheme.

The Commission will distribute annually a list with details of the works translated under this scheme.

(Amendment 37)

Annex

Section II: Support measures

1. Fostering synergies at European level through networks and the development of partnerships

Paragraph 4a (new)

Encouraging cooperation between publishers at European level, by creating a database containing the details of books available in the book trade, of publishing houses and their specialist fields, with a view to supporting the co-production and co-publication of European works.

(Amendment 38)

ANNEX, Section II. Support measures

1. Fostering synergies at European level through networks and the development of partnerships

Paragraph 4b (new)

Encouraging measures to promote literary works translated with the help of the ARIANE programme (bearing the cost of promotional visits from chosen authors, presentation of their books to libraries, posters, etc.).

(Amendment 39)

Annex

Section II: Support measures

2. Support measures concerned more specifically with making literature more accessible to the public and to young people in particular.

Indent 3

Support for pilot and innovatory projects with a European dimension aimed at promoting reading and European literature among young people, carried out by the competent authorities, particularly local authorities and structures with a quasi-educational purpose, associations, networks, foundations.

Support for pilot and innovatory projects with a European dimension aimed at promoting reading and European literature among young people, carried out by the competent authorities, particularly local authorities and structures with a quasi-educational purpose (Rest deleted).

(Amendment 40)

Annex

Section II: Support measures

3. Further training and research

(b) Complementary training measures for professional working to promote knowledge and dissemination of European literature

Sole paragraph (b) (new)

To this end, encouragement must be given to the training of professionals in this field, particularly publishers, librarians and booksellers, in new technologies and other multimedia tools, particular attention must be given to electronic literary editions which will become more important. Problems of copyright in this instance for both the authors and translators should be considered.

(Amendment 41)

ANNEX, Section II. Support measures

3. Further training and research

(b) Complementary training measures for professionals working to promote knowledge and dissemination of European literature

Sole paragraph (b) (new)

Consideration must be given to setting up in the Community semantics databases (listing semantic difficulties and peculiarities) to help technical and literary translators. The Translation Centre in Luxembourg might be used to house such databases.

(Amendment 42)

Annex

Section III: Cooperation with non-member countries

1. Specific arrangements for opening up the ARIANE programme (Sections I and II) to countries of Central and Eastern Europe that are a party to Europe agreements

Paragraph 1

In line with the conclusions of the Copenhagen European Council (21-22 June 1993), a number of programmes have to be opened up to countries of Central and Eastern Europe that are party to Europe agreements (Poland, Hungary, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Slovenia, Romania). This applies particularly to agreements in the cultural field. Title 7 of the European agreements on culture refers explicitly to translation. Sections I and II of the ARIANE programme must therefore be opened up to these other countries. The Association Councils will decide the terms of this participation. The countries of Central and Eastern Europe will themselves meet the extra costs arising from their involvement. If necessary, and under certain conditions, a contribution could be made from the Community budget.

In line with the conclusions of the Copenhagen European Council (21-22 June 1993), a number of programmes have to be opened up to countries of Central and Eastern Europe that are party to Europe agreements (Poland, Hungary, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Bulgaria, Romania). This applies particularly to agreements in the cultural field. Title 7 of the European agreements on culture refers explicitly to translation. The countries of Central and Eastern Europe which have signed cooperation agreements (Estonia, Lettonia, Lithuania, Albania and Slovenia) must also have the opportunity of taking part in the programme. Sections I and II of the ARIANE programme must therefore be opened up to these other countries. The Association Councils will decide the terms of this participation. The countries of Central and Eastern Europe will themselves meet the extra costs arising from their involvement. If necessary, and under certain conditions, a contribution could be made from the Community budget.

(Amendment 43)

Annex

Section III, paragraph 2, last paragraph

Efforts will be made to achieve synergy with the competent international organizations, and the Council of Europe in particular, while respecting the identity and autonomy of each institution and organization.

Efforts will be made to achieve synergy with the Council of Europe and other competent international organizations, such as UNESCO, while respecting the identity and autonomy of each institution and organization.

DRAFT LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION

Legislative resolution embodying Parliament's opinion on the proposal for a European Parliament and Council decision (EC) establishing a support programme in the field of books and reading 'ARIANE' (COM(94)0356 - C4-0198/94 - 94/0189(COD))

(Codecision procedure: first reading)

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the Commission proposal to Parliament and the Council, COM(94)0356 - 94/0189/(COD)¹,
 - having regard to Article 189b(2) and Article 128 of the EC Treaty, pursuant to which the Commission submitted the proposal to Parliament (C4-0198/94),
 - having regard to Rule 58 of its Rules of Procedure,
 - having regard to the report of the Committee on Culture, Youth, Education and the Media and the opinion of the Committee on Budgets (A4-0073/95),
1. Approves the Commission proposal, subject to Parliament's amendments;
 2. Calls on the Commission to alter its proposal accordingly, pursuant to Article 189a(2) of the EC Treaty;
 3. Calls on the Council to incorporate Parliament's amendments in the common position that it adopts in accordance with Article 189b(2) of the EC Treaty;
 4. Calls on the Council to notify Parliament and open the conciliation procedure should it intend to depart from the text approved by Parliament;
 5. Points out that the Commission is required to submit to Parliament any modification it may intend to make to its proposal as amended by Parliament;
 6. Instructs its President to forward this opinion to the Council and Commission.

¹ OJ C 324, 22.11.1994, p. 11.

B
EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

'Translating from foreign languages is like bringing home to one's own country a tiny fragment of an entire world, a part of the linguistic environment - of the very system of poetics - to which the poem belongs'

Georges SEFERIS, Copies, 1963.

I. INTRODUCTION

European culture, which is the fruit of a wide range of cultures, is essential to the development and external influence of the European Union. Prior to the Treaty on European Union (TEU), culture as such, despite its importance, did not feature among the Community's spheres of responsibility. Nevertheless, the European institutions - Commission, Council and Parliament - did not in fact neglect this area, dealing with it indirectly through:

- measures in the heritage field,
- activities to promote books and reading,
- measures in the field of art (now covered by the Kaleidoscope programme),
- the MEDIA programme for the audiovisual sector.

The European Parliament, which has for many years insisted that culture should have a place among the responsibilities of the Community, has always supported the projects proposed by the Commission in this field.

The Treaty on European Union recognizes the responsibility of the Community in this area in its title IX 'Culture'. Under Article 128 of the Treaty, the Union is to contribute to the flowering of the cultures of Member States, while respecting their national and regional diversity and at the same time bringing the common cultural heritage to the fore. In accordance with these principles, the EU's action in the cultural sphere aims to encourage cooperation between Member States and, if necessary, support and supplement their action in specific areas, while respecting the subsidiarity principle. This action is intended to provide a 'European added value' clearly distinguishable from that of measures taken at national level.

That being said, cultural projects, whether within or outside the Union, can only develop their full potential in accordance with the subsidiarity principle, and have a positive effect, if Member States and local and regional authorities adopt an open and cooperative attitude towards Community programmes aimed at strengthening the Union and creating a genuine 'Citizen's Europe'.

II. THE BIRTH OF THE ARIANE PROGRAMME

The books and reading sector has not been neglected by the Community institutions. The Commission submitted its first communications on this subject more than ten years ago. Parliament welcomed these communications enthusiastically, for reading, as a means of access to thought in its written

form, forms part of the universal heritage and constitutes an inalienable historical right of the citizen, while books, together with audiovisual images, form the essential educational tool enabling citizens to develop their potential and find their place - through analysis and synthesis - in a cultural world characterized by the diversity of our national, regional and local cultures and the uniqueness of our shared values. Books are the prime means of expression, and medium par excellence of intellectual and artistic creation, research and thought, without which there would be no knowledge, no awareness of oneself, other people and the world.

In a multicultural and multilingual Community like ours, the aim of action in the field of books and reading should be to enable any European citizen to have effective access in his or her own language to significant literary or scientific works published anywhere in the Union. Since there is a limit to the number of languages the general reader can master, this implies an increase both in the quantity and the quality of translation.

With the translation market constantly growing, particularly in the technical (economics, law and science) publishing sectors, the number of specialized translators falls far below what is needed. Moreover, in our view there is a need for a professional status for translators, to be worked out at European level in cooperation with the Member States and the relevant professional organizations.

At the end of the 1980s the Commission launched, with Parliament's support, its first activities aimed at promoting books and reading: the first European literary prize and the prize for the best translations of European literary works. These prizes were awarded for the first time in 1990 in Glasgow at the time when it was the 'European City of Culture'.

Another activity was the pilot scheme (1990-1994) to provide financial aid for translation of contemporary European literary works, which had an annual budget of ECU 200 000. Priority was given, in descending order, to the translation of:

- works in lesser used languages into the more widely spoken languages,
- works in lesser used languages into other lesser used languages,
- works in a widely spoken language into lesser used languages,
- works in widely spoken languages into other widely spoken languages, the main emphasis being on less widely translated literature.

This support was intended essentially for work published in the Member States after 1945.

A third measure related to the professional training of translators. The Community awarded grants and travel bonuses for training courses at colleges of literary translators and encouraged the creation of a network among these institutions.

In addition, a European books and reading awareness campaign entitled 'Reading for Pleasure' was officially launched in Copenhagen in April 1993 and has been extended for 18 months.

The Council and the Ministers responsible for cultural affairs, in their conclusions of 27 May 1988, 18 May 1989 and 12 November 1992, supported the Commission proposals which resulted in the abovementioned activities.

The European Parliament, in a number of resolutions and particularly that of 21 January 1993 on the promotion of books and reading¹, called for a significant stepping up of Community action in favour of books and reading. This resolution also advocated the creation of a specific programme for the promotion of books and reading - the GUTENBERG programme - giving an overall view of the problems of books and reading in Europe and possible solutions to these problems. The resolution also stresses the need for a coherent European translation policy, essential in a multicultural and multilingual Europe in which xenophobia, racism and nationalism are gaining influence.

Unfortunately the Commission did not follow Parliament's suggested guidelines which called for measures involving the whole book production chain: creation, publishing, translation and dissemination.

The Commission's proposed ARIANE programme, the creation of which has now been given a legal basis by Article 128 of the Treaty on European Union, does not go beyond a programme of Community support for literary translation. We consequently propose to change the programme's title to reflect this.

The ARIANE programme, which is to run for five years (1996-2000) has an overall (indicative) budget of ECU 34.0 m. It has the following objectives:

- to encourage wider dissemination of works of contemporary literature that are representative of the culture of the Member States, giving priority to translations of works in the lesser known languages of the Community and promoting them through emblematic measures,
- to contribute, by means of translation, to the dissemination of contemporary drama, to offer European audiences a varied repertoire that is representative of the cultures of the Member State,
- to foster the dissemination of reference works with a view to promoting knowledge of the culture and history of the European peoples, particularly in the areas referred to in Article 128(2) and (4) of the Treaty,
- to support and complement efforts at national and regional level with a series of measures at Community level relating in particular to cooperation in the form of networks and partnerships, initial and further training and research,
- to foster cooperation with non-member countries and cooperation with competent international organizations in the cultural sphere, and in particular the Council of Europe.

To carry out these objectives, the programme provides for the following elements:

1. Grants for the translation of works of contemporary literature, works of drama and reference works, as well as emblematic action (ARISTEION prizes: European literature prize and European translation prize);
2. Support measures:
 - fostering synergies at European level through networks and the development of partnerships,

¹ OJ C 42, 15.02.1993, p. 182.

- support measures concerned more specifically with making literature more accessible to the public and to young people in particular,
 - further training of literary translators;
3. Cooperation with non-Member countries, including the States of Central and Eastern Europe that are a party to association agreements.

III. COMMENTS ON THE COMMISSION PROPOSAL

1. Translation as a link in the book production chain

In spite of the Community's efforts over a number of years, and those of the Member States, grants for the translation of works in the EU languages are manifestly insufficient, particularly for translation of works with a recognized value but limited commercial potential, and publications in the lesser used languages. To this extent the Commission's proposal for the establishment of the ARIANE programme is most timely.

Promoting translation helps Europeans to know each other better, it encourages the defence of lesser used languages, it helps enable characteristic values (which are daily at risk of erosion and standardization from easier predominant languages) to be handed on and fosters the creation of a genuine 'European book area'.

In our view, there must be effective coordination at European level between the various translation grants awarded by the European Union and its Member States, the Council of Europe and UNESCO in order to exploit synergies and make these grants more effective.

We also feel that the ARIANE programme, the main objective of which is the promotion of literary translation, should not lead us to forget that there are other important issues in the book production chain such as literary creation (enhancing the social status of authors), publishing (the European book market, new technologies, concentration and internationalization of publishing), dissemination problems (bookshops and libraries), the conservation of works printed on acidic paper, and book prices. The establishment of the ARIANE programme is intended merely as a first step towards other projects in the field of books and reading.

2. Training and professional status of translators

(a) Training

The training of translators, together with their pay levels, is an essential element determining the quality translations.

Publishing is one of the most promising sectors in the translation market. On the other hand, given the fact that this market can only expand, the number of professional translators is small and the number of them with a good command of specialized languages (e.g. medical or legal Greek) falls well below what is needed.

With this in mind, we consider the priority measures to be:

- developing and supporting the network of colleges of translators,
- encouraging the introduction of translation programmes in universities,
- the award of grants for the training of translators under the SOCRATES programme.

(b) Professional status of translators

The training of translators also implies the clarification of their professional status in the Union. The status of translators is rather vague and they are organized in different ways in different Member States. A European professional status for translators should be worked out in cooperation with the Member States' authorities and the relevant professional organizations, taking account, inter alia of the diversity of translators' training, qualifications, and the type of work they translate.

(c) Authors' and translators' guide

An authors' and translators' guide should be drawn up, with information on the legal, social and tax systems in the various Member States.

3. Promotion of reading among children and young people

The practice of reading is under threat from images transmitted by the mass media. Consequently, we consider it necessary:

- to promote books for children and young people,
- to encourage translations of books for young people,
- to broadcast TV programmes on children's and young people's books,
- to promote subtitling in preference to dubbing,
- to institute readings in youth theatres,
- to set up street libraries in disadvantaged urban areas,
- to institute a European Youth Book Prize.

4. Emblematic action

Emblematic activities in the field of books and reading are restricted to the European Literary Prize and Translation Prize and the books and reading awareness campaign 'Reading for pleasure'. In our view, other activities should be considered:

(a) European books and reading week

Together with the Council of Europe and UNESCO, the Commission should take steps to organize an annual books and reading week in each Member States, involving professionals in the book production field professions, people in responsible posts in the fields of education and culture, public and private libraries and associations and groups for the promotion of reading and knowledge.

(b) Typographical Quality Prize

This prize should be awarded to a book printed in a country of the Union, conferring on that country the same recognition as the literary prize and involving the same prize-money to be divided among the various workers in the typographical field in accordance with rules to be laid down for this purpose, taking account of the work of the publisher, illustrators and drawing artists,

etc. This prize should also be awarded in the context of the 'European City of Culture' initiative and should be given sufficient publicity in the media.

(c) Prize for a television programme on books and reading

Since television continues to be the main vehicle of communication with young people and the public in general, it would be desirable for a prize to be awarded to the best literary programme on any of the Community's TV channels.

(d) European literary collection

The Commission, in close collaboration with the Member States and members of the relevant professions, should consider the possibility of publishing, perhaps in cooperation with the Council of Europe, a European collection of masterpieces of the European theatre, the European novel, the short story, etc.

5. Studies and statistics in the books and culture sector

In our view, it is essential to create an information network in the cultural field (by analogy with the EURYDICE network in education).

Within this network, the following should be produced:

- a study on European books and reading statistics,
- an annual publication listing all the translations made in Europe during the past year and summarizing the various systems of translation grants existing in Europe, whether public or private, at local, regional, national and international level.

6. Publicizing the programme

Special publicity should be provided for the ARIANE programme, both in the Member States and in European non-member countries. Information desks should therefore be set up to cover Community programmes in the field of culture, audiovisual media and education, perhaps using the Commission's information offices.

7. Implementation of Article 128(4) of the TEU

Article 128(4) states that the Community shall take cultural aspects into account in its action under other provisions of the Treaty. This provision is extremely important since it enables the cultural implications in fields such as education, copyright, VAT, the audiovisual media and the structural funds to be taken into account. The Commission should therefore ensure that the ARIANE programme is coherent with other Community initiatives with a view to exploiting all possible synergies.

8. Cultural dialogue

Over the past few years the Commission, with Parliament's full support, has embarked on a cultural dialogue with third countries, particularly those of Central and Eastern Europe. We welcome this move because the 'European cultural area' goes far beyond the borders of the Union and the new sphere of cooperation, which is only five years old, should not be restricted to political and economic affairs but should also go hand-in-hand with cultural contacts.

In this connection we feel that a specific project in favour of translators and/or interpreters should be established in order to make up for the current deficit both of western European languages and literature in the East and of Central and Eastern European language and literature in the European Union.

We hope that the ARIANE programme can help the dissemination of literary works from the countries of Central and Eastern Europe in the European Union, and vice versa, to help us find out as much as we can about each other's literary heritages, and in particular works published since 1945.

We also consider that, in the context of the ARIANE programme, priority to participate in this initiative should be given to the following third countries:

- Switzerland, Norway, Iceland, Cyprus and Malta,
- Poland, Hungary, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Romania and Bulgaria,
- Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, Albania and Slovenia,
- Russia, Ukraine, Belarus and Moldova.

Cooperation with the relevant international organizations, particularly the Council of Europe and UNESCO, should be stepped up.

OPINION

(Rule 147 of the Rules of Procedure)

of the Committee on Budgets

for the Committee on Culture, Youth, Education and the Media

Draftsman: Mrs Barbara Dührkop Dührkop

At its meeting of 6 December 1994 the Committee on Budgets appointed Mrs Dührkop Dührkop draftsman.

It considered the draft opinion at its meeting of 21 February 1995.

At the latter meeting it adopted the conclusions as a whole unanimously.

The following were present for the vote: Samland, chairman; Tillich, 1st vice-chairman; Dührkop Dührkop, draftsman; Colom i Naval, Desama (for Dankert), Ghilardotti, König, McCartin, Miranda, Müller, Theato, Wemheuer (for Willockx) and Wynn.

Commission text

Amendments

(Amendment 1)

Recital 7 (new)

Having regard to the *modus vivendi* between the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission as regards measures to implement the acts adopted in accordance with the procedure laid down in Article 189b of the EC Treaty, adopted on 20 January 1995;

(Amendment 2)

Recital 8 (new)

Whereas, in accordance with the provisions laid down in Article 3(1) and (3) of the current Financial Regulation, the Commission has submitted the financial statement, comprising the planned schedule of annual requirements for the duration of the programme in question; whereas this financial statement, updated in accordance with the decisions of the budgetary authority and in line with the state of execution of the authorized appropriations, must be forwarded to the budgetary authority together with the preliminary draft budget;

(Amendment 3)

Article 6, first paragraph

The representative of the Commission shall submit to the Committee a draft of the measures to be taken. The Committee shall deliver its opinion on the draft within a time limit which the chairman may lay down according to the urgency of the matter, if necessary by taking a vote.

In accordance with the provisions laid down in the *modus vivendi* of 20 January 1995 and the associated procedures, the representative of the Commission shall submit to the Committee a draft of the measures to be taken. The Committee shall deliver its opinion on the draft within a time limit which the chairman may lay down according to the urgency of the matter, if necessary by taking a vote.

(Amendment 4)
Article 7

After the programme has been in operation for two years, and within six months of that period, the Commission, having consulted the Committee referred to in Article 5, shall present a report on the result achieved to the European Parliament and the Council, and, where necessary, make appropriate proposals.

On the expiry of the programme, the Commission, acting in accordance with the procedure laid down in Article 6, shall submit a report to the European Parliament and the Council on the implementation and results of the programme.

After the programme has been in operation for two years, the Commission shall present a report on the result achieved to the European Parliament and the Council, and, where necessary, make appropriate proposals. This report shall place particular emphasis on the synergies developed by the Member States and the improved dissemination of literature in the less widely-used languages.

On the expiry of the programme, the Commission shall submit a report to the European Parliament and the Council on the implementation and results of the programme.

PART B: EXPLANATORY STATEMENT ON THE PROPOSAL FOR A EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND COUNCIL DECISION ON THE ARIANE AND KALEIDOSCOPE PROGRAMMES

Background

1. Before the Treaty on European Union and the latest Interinstitutional Agreement, there was no strictly defined legal basis for measures in the field of culture. The budgetary items 'Protection and development of the European cultural heritage' (B3-2000), 'Measures to encourage cultural initiatives in connection with European influence' (B3-2001) and 'Cultural cooperation with third countries' (B3-2003) have their origins in an initiative taken by the Commission, whilst Item B3-2004, the Gutenberg Programme ('Books and reading'), was introduced two years ago by Parliament on the basis of an own-initiative report.

It is on the basis of Article 128 of the Treaty on European Union and the Interinstitutional Agreement that the Commission has submitted the communication on European Community action to support culture (Kaleidoscope 2000 and Ariane). This means that European Union cultural policy is now fully recognized.

Kaleidoscope has a budget of ECU 68 m, and Ariane of ECU 34 m, for a five-year period (1996-2000), using as a basis the old budgetary items B3-2001 and B3-2003, for which ECU 6800 m was earmarked in 1994 and ECU 9800 m for 1995.

Remarks

2. It is difficult to estimate the budgets needed for Kaleidoscope and Ariane over the period 1996-2000. The Commission has therefore refrained from making a financial estimate in the legislative text. The estimate is set out in the financial statement submitted by the Commission, as laid down in Article 3(1) and (3) of the current Financial Regulation.

3. It should be asked whether the Commission is proposing Kaleidoscope 2000 and Ariane as an initial step towards the introduction, after their consolidation, of a general five-year programme for the promotion of culture.

4. In budgetary terms, both programmes require the establishment of a financial priority within category 3, by comparison with the programmes which have not yet been proposed.

This may pose problems, depending on what is available in category 3 of the Financial Perspective, and may have a weakening effect overall on the budget available for culture when it comes to negotiating on other policies in this category.

5. Measures under Kaleidoscope and Ariane, for which ECU 68 m and ECU 34 m respectively have been budgeted for the period 1996-2000, do not coincide with the period covered by the Financial Perspective (1993-1999). This means that it is not possible to guarantee appropriations up to the year 2000, thus creating financial uncertainty in the final year of the two action programmes.

6. The criteria for the allocation of funds to the various measures planned under the two programmes are such that measures must always entail added value of a socio-economic nature. These criteria are listed in the annexes. The Commission is given a freer hand in the deployment of appropriations. The European Parliament, on the other hand, loses some of its powers of control and leadership as one arm of the budgetary authority.

As this is not a strictly budgetary issue, the draftsman will confine herself here to recommending that the committee responsible take account of this observation.

7. As these two action programmes have been submitted on the legal basis of Article 128 of the Treaty on European Union, which makes provision for co-decision, Parliament's amendments on committeeology and the De Giovanni/Bourlanges *modus vivendi* must be incorporated. These amendments, which follow a standard pattern, have already been adopted during the conciliation procedure in connection with the Socrates and Youth for Europe programmes. It should be stressed in this context that, according to Article 205 of the Treaties, the Commission bears sole responsibility for the implementation of the budget.

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