

FINANCIAL AND TECHNICAL AID TO NON-ASSOCIATED DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

- Draft basic framework regulation

At its last meeting, held in November 1977, the Development Co-operation Council agreed on the principle of the preparation of a basic framework regulation for the implementation of financial and technical aid to non-associated developing countries.

At this meeting the Council finalized the content of this Regulation, the purpose of which is to define the measures to be taken, the objectives to be achieved and the detailed arrangements for the administration of the aid. It will be recalled that the amount of the aid is fixed every year when the Community budget is adopted.

It will be seen, in particular, that this aid will as a general rule be made available to the poorest developing countries; in applying this principle, the Community will seek a reasonable geographical balance amongst the world's major developing regions.

The aid will be intended essentially to contribute to an improvement in the living conditions of the most needy sections of the population. Rural development and the improvement of food production assume special importance; participation in regional projects may be considered; there is provision for a reserve to cover exceptional situations (disasters).

The Council's conclusions took the form of joint positions which will be communicated to the European Parliament in the framework of the conciliation procedure between that Institution and the Council which applies to this Regulation and which may be opened when the Council diverges from the Parliament's Opinion. This is the case specifically as regards the detailed rules for administering the aid in respect of which the Council did not support the European Parliament's Opinion and the original proposal of the Commission, which upheld its proposal.

- General guidelines for the 1978 programme

On the basis of suggestions from the Commission, the Council evolved the general guidelines for the implementation of the 1978 financial and technical aid programme for non-associated developing countries. An amount of 70 million UA is entered in the budget for this programme. On the basis of these guidelines the Commission may begin to examine the projects to be financed.