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PARLIAMENT – COUNCIL CONCILIATION COMMITTEE

Brussels, 1 October 1996

Programme of Community action on the prevention of drug dependence

Representatives of the European Parliament and the Council, meeting on 1 October 1996 in the Conciliation Committee under the co-decision procedure, agreed on a joint draft for the Decision on a programme of Community action on the prevention of drug dependence ⁽¹⁾.

The two institutions each have six weeks in which to confirm the joint draft (by an absolute majority of votes cast in the case of the Parliament and by a qualified majority in the case of the Council) further to which the Decision will stand adopted.

The conciliation procedure dealt in particular with the Parliament's amendments concerning the means of preventing drug dependence and risks associated with drug dependence, in particular:

- the role of the family and friends and acquaintances in general;
- socio-economic factors and the contribution made by measures taken in the social sphere;
- the contribution made by private bodies which are active in this field.

⁽¹⁾ The Conciliation Committee has 30 members: 15 members from the European Parliament and one representative from each Member State. The meeting on 1 October was chaired jointly by the President-in-Office of the Council, Mr Michael NOONAN, the Irish Minister for Health, and Mr Renzo IMBENI, Vice-President of the European Parliament.

The aim of the five-year programme is to help in combating drug dependence, in particular by encouraging cooperation between Member States, supporting their action and promoting coordination between their policies and programmes with a view to preventing dependence linked to the use of narcotics and psychotropic substances and associated use of other products for similar purposes.

The actions to be implemented under the programme and their specific objectives relate to the following:

– Data, Research, Evaluation

To improve knowledge of the phenomenon of drugs and drug dependence and its consequences, and of means and methods of prevention of drug dependence and the risks relating thereto, in particular by using the information supplied by the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EDMC) and the possibilities offered by existing Community programmes and instruments.

– Information, Health Education and Training

To contribute to improving information, education and training aimed at preventing drug dependence and the associated risks, in particular for young people and particularly vulnerable groups.

The financial package is ECU 27 million.

As in the case of the programmes of Community action already adopted at the beginning of the year in the field of public health (combating cancer; the prevention of AIDS and certain other communicable diseases; health promotion, information, education and training), the Commission will have to ensure that the programme is implemented in close cooperation with the Member States.

The Decision also contains provisions on consistency and complementarity between actions to be implemented under this programme and other relevant Community programmes and initiatives, as well as with the activities of the EDMC.

Finally, cooperation with third countries and international organizations which are active in this field is also recommended and associated Central and Eastern European countries may participate in the programme.

