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(Acts adopted under Title V of the Treaty on European Union)

JOINT ACTION

of 30 April 1998

adopted by the Council on the basis of Article J.3 of the Treaty on European Union in support of the Government of Montenegro

(98/301/CFSP)

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty on European Union and, in particular, Articles J.3 and J.11 thereof,

Having regard to the general guidelines contained in the conclusions adopted by the European Council in Dublin on 13 and 14 December 1996,

Whereas a new President took office in the Republic of Montenegro on 15 January 1998;

Whereas the European Union recognises that the Government needs the full support of the international community to pursue political and economic reform;

Whereas the Council on 27 April 1998 welcomed the continuing commitment shown by President Djukanovic to political and economic reform in Montenegro, agreed that the European Union should send a clear and immediate signal of its support for the reform process and agreed to allocate an initial amount of ECU 3 million in financial assistance to the Montenegrin Government to help it meet outstanding social welfare payments;

Whereas the Council notes that the Government of Montenegro intends to disburse the relevant social welfare payments as soon as possible and in any case no later than 31 May 1998;

Whereas it is important to ensure appropriate visibility for such Union support; and

Whereas in order to ensure the consistency of the Union's external activities European Community additional measures in support of the reform process, such as in the field of independent media, should also be assessed further in the near future to go beyond this first step, notably on the occasion of the Troika visit of 5 May 1998,

HAS ADOPTED THIS JOINT ACTION:

Article 1

This joint action aims to provide, on an exceptional basis, rapid short-term assistance to the new Government of Montenegro. The aim of the Union's assistance is to help the Government of Montenegro to continue its programme of economic and political reform.

Article 2

1. To this end, an initial amount of ECU 3 million shall be charged to the general budget of the European Communities for 1998.

2. The amount referred to in paragraph 1 shall be managed in accordance with the European Community procedures and rules applicable to the budget.

3. The amount referred to in paragraph 1 shall be made available immediately to the account specified by the Government of Montenegro

Article 3

The Presidency shall report to the Council on the progress made by the Government of Montenegro in political and economic reform.

Article 4

The Council notes that the Commission in support of the objectives of this joint action intends to come forward where appropriate with proposals for project assistance in support of the Government of Montenegro.

Article 5

The European Union will encourage the international community to consider assistance in support of the objectives of this joint action.

Article 6

This joint action shall enter into force on the day of its adoption. It shall apply as from 1 March 1998.

Article 7

This joint action shall be published in the Official Journal.

Done at Luxembourg, 30 April 1998.

For the Council

The President

T. JOWELL

JOINT ACTION**of 30 April 1998****adopted by the Council on the basis of Article J.3 of the Treaty on European Union, concerning support for the electoral process in Bosnia and Herzegovina****(98/302/CFSP)**

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty on European Union, and in particular Articles J.3 and J.11 thereof,

Having regard to the conclusions of the Dublin European Council on 13 and 14 December 1996, and of the Amsterdam European Council on 16 and 17 June 1997,

Whereas national elections are due to take place in Bosnia and Herzegovina on 12-13 September 1998;

Whereas the Permanent Council of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) decided on 5 and 12 March 1998 that the OSCE would supervise these elections;

Whereas the Union has consistently contributed to the OSCE supervision activities for all elections held in Bosnia and Herzegovina⁽¹⁾ pursuant to the General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina and intends to continue to play an active role to this effect;

Whereas EU Member States are the main contributors to the OSCE budget for the supervision of national elections in Bosnia and Herzegovina under the OSCE scale for 'large missions and projects',

HAS ADOPTED THIS JOINT ACTION:

Article 1

This joint action aims at further strengthening the support already provided by the Union to the activities carried out by the OSCE pursuant to the General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

⁽¹⁾ Joint Action 96/406/CFSP (OJ L 168, 6.7.1996, p. 1), as amended by Council Decision 97/153/CFSP (OJ L 63, 4.3.1997, p. 1), and supplemented by Council Decision 97/224/CFSP (OJ L 90, 4.4.1997, p. 1) and Council Decision 97/689/CFSP (OJ L 293, 27.10.1997, p. 1).

In particular, this joint action aims at providing EU support in addition to that already provided through the contribution to the OSCE budget for the supervision of national elections in Bosnia and Herzegovina under the OSCE scale for 'large missions and projects', which provides for a contribution by EU Member States representing 67 % of the total.

Article 2

1. The additional support referred to in Article 1 shall take the form of an EU contribution towards OSCE supervision. This shall include a voluntary contribution towards OSCE Project No G-7 (Supervision Personnel)⁽²⁾, through the provision of a team of EU supervisors tasked with overseeing the electoral process including voter registration, polling and counting (Section 1, 2, 3 and 4 of No G-7), under the aegis of the OSCE, as well as towards OSCE Project No G-16 (Media Centre).

2. EU long-term supervisors shall stay in the region for a period of up to 208 days. EU medium-term supervisors shall stay in the region for a period of 34 to 38 days. EU short-term supervisors shall stay for a period of 11 to 18 days.

Article 3

1. In order to cover the costs involved in realising the activities mentioned in Article 2, a maximum of ECU 5 million shall be charged to the general budget of the European Communities for 1998.

2. Of the amount mentioned in paragraph 1, a sum of up to ECU 4,92 million will be earmarked for a voluntary contribution in order to co-finance up to 40 % of the total cost of the OSCE project No G-7, sections 1, 2, 3 and 4, and for the transport costs of EU supervisors from Member States' capitals to Vienna and their return.

⁽²⁾ Decision No 224 of the OSCE Permanent Council of 8 April 1998.

This, taking into account the Member States' own contributions, will allow the Union to finance the vast majority of the supervision activities. The exact amount will be calculated on the basis of the definitive list of EU supervisors.

3. Of the amount mentioned in paragraph 1, a sum of up to ECU 80 000 will be earmarked for a voluntary contribution towards OSCE project No G-16 (Media Centre), notably with a view to ensuring EU visibility.

4. The expenditure financed from the amount referred to in paragraph 1 shall be managed in compliance with the Community's budgetary procedures and rules.

Article 4

The Council shall review the implementation of this joint action.

Article 5

This joint action shall enter into force on the day of its adoption.

Article 6

This joint action shall be published in the Official Journal.

Done at Luxembourg, 30 April 1998.

For the Council

The President

T. JOWELL

COUNCIL DECISION
of 27 April 1998
concerning the further extension of Common Position 96/635/CFSP on Burma/Myanmar
(98/303/CFSP)

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty on European Union, and in particular Article J.2 thereof,

Having regard to Common Position 96/635/CFSP of 28 October 1996 defined by the Council on the basis of Article J.2 of the Treaty on European Union, on Burma/Myanmar ⁽¹⁾,

Having regard to Decision 97/688/CFSP ⁽²⁾, which extended that common position for a period of six months until 29 April 1998,

Whereas, in the light of point 6 of Common Position 96/635/CFSP, that common position should be further extended,

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1

Common Position 96/635/CFSP is hereby further extended until 29 October 1998.

Article 2

This Decision shall be published in the Official Journal.

Done at Luxembourg, 27 April 1998.

For the Council

The President

R. COOK

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 287, 8.11.1996, p. 1.

⁽²⁾ OJ L 293, 27.10.1997, p. 1.

(Acts adopted under Title VI of the Treaty on European Union)

JOINT ACTION

of 27 April 1998

adopted by the Council on the basis of Article K.3 of the Treaty on European Union,
concerning the financing of specific projects in favour of displaced persons who have found
temporary protection in the Member States and asylum-seekers

(98/304/JHA)

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty on European Union and, in particular, Articles K.3(2)(b) and K.8(2) thereof,

Whereas the Member States consider asylum policy a matter of common interest;

Whereas taking action in favour of displaced persons who have found temporary protection in the Member States and asylum-seekers is likely to improve the conditions under which such persons are voluntarily repatriated, and whereas it is necessary to undertake specific projects on an experimental basis, with a view to establishing a legal instrument for developing further action in this area, as appropriate,

HAS ADOPTED THIS JOINT ACTION:

Article 1

1. Specific projects intended to facilitate the voluntary repatriation of displaced persons who have found temporary protection in the Member States and asylum-seekers shall be undertaken on an experimental basis during 1998.

2. These measures are intended primarily to cover the following areas:

- education facilities for persons concerned who are under the age of 18,
- vocational training,
- information on the economic and administrative set-up in their country of origin, with the essential aim of assisting their reintegration into their country,

- projects developed in connection with the twinning of local administrative areas,

- aid to transport.

Article 2

The aggregate cost of the specific projects shall not exceed ECU 13 million.

Article 3

The specific projects shall be financed by the general budget of the European Communities.

Article 4

1. Where the financing is less than ECU 200 000, the Commission shall keep the Council informed of the number of requests received for the financing of specific projects, the principles applied in granting support thereto and the results of such projects.

2. Where the financing is ECU 200 000 or more and less than ECU 1 million, the Commission shall be assisted by a committee consisting of one representative from each Member State and chaired by a representative of the Commission. The Commission shall submit to the committee a list of the projects which have been submitted to it. It shall indicate the projects it selects and shall give reasons for its selection. The committee, acting by the majority provided for in the second subparagraph of Article K.4(3) of the Treaty, shall deliver its opinion

on the various projects within a period of two weeks. The Chairman shall not vote. The opinion shall be recorded in the minutes; moreover, each Member State shall have the right to ask that its position be recorded in the minutes. The Commission shall take full account of the opinion delivered by the committee. It shall inform the committee of how it has done so.

3. Where the financing is ECU 1 million or more, the Commission shall submit to the committee referred to in paragraph 2 a list of projects which have been submitted to it. It shall indicate the projects it selects and shall give reasons for its selection. The committee, acting by the majority provided for in the second subparagraph of Article K.4(3) of the Treaty, shall deliver its opinion on the various projects within a period of two weeks. The Chairman shall not vote. If a favourable opinion is not delivered within the time limit, the Commission shall either withdraw the project(s) concerned or submit it (them), with any opinion from the committee, to the Council, which, acting by the majority provided for in the second subparagraph of Article K.4(3) of the Treaty, shall take a decision within one month.

Article 5

The Commission shall keep the Council informed of the results of the specific projects financed by the general

budget of the European Communities with a view to assessing the possibility of developing action in this area on the basis of an appropriate legal instrument.

Article 6

This Joint Action shall enter into force on the day of its adoption.

It shall be applicable until the end of 1998.

Article 7

This Joint Action shall be published in the Official Journal.

Done at Luxembourg, 27 April 1998.

For the Council

The President

R. COOK

JOINT ACTION

of 27 April 1998

adopted by the Council on the basis of Article K.3 of the Treaty on European Union,
concerning the financing of specific projects in favour of asylum-seekers and refugees

(98/305/JHA)

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

— the Council resolution of 26 June 1997 on unaccompanied minors who are nationals of third countries ⁽³⁾.

Having regard to the Treaty on European Union and, in particular, Articles K.3(2)(b) and K.8(2) thereof,

Article 2

Whereas the Member States consider asylum policy a matter of common interest;

The aggregate cost of the specific projects shall not exceed ECU 3,750 million.

Whereas taking action in favour of asylum-seekers and refugees in the Member States is likely to improve facilities for the admission of such persons and to encourage the sharing of responsibility between the Member States, and whereas it is necessary to undertake specific projects on an experimental basis, with a view to establishing a legal instrument for developing further action in this area, as appropriate,

Article 3

The specific projects shall be financed by the general budget of the European Communities.

HAS ADOPTED THIS JOINT ACTION:

*Article 4**Article 1*

1. Specific projects intended to improve admission facilities for asylum-seekers and refugees in the Member States shall be undertaken on an experimental basis during 1998.

2. These measures are intended primarily to implement the following instruments:

- the Council resolution of 20 June 1995 on minimum guarantees for asylum procedures ⁽¹⁾,
- the Council resolution of 25 September 1995 on burden-sharing with regard to the admission and residence of displaced persons on a temporary basis ⁽²⁾,

1. Where the financing is less than ECU 200 000, the Commission shall keep the Council informed of the number of requests received for the financing of specific projects, the principles applied in granting support thereto and the results of such projects.

2. Where the financing is ECU 200 000 or more and less than ECU 1 million, the Commission shall be assisted by a committee consisting of one representative from each Member State and chaired by a representative of the Commission. The Commission shall submit to the committee a list of the projects which have been submitted to it. It shall indicate the projects it selects and shall give reasons for its selection. The committee, acting by the majority provided for in the second subparagraph of Article K.4(3) of the Treaty, shall deliver its opinion on the various projects within a period of two weeks. The Chairman shall not vote. The opinion shall be recorded in the minutes; moreover, each Member State shall have the right to ask that its position be recorded in the minutes. The Commission shall take full account of the opinion delivered by the committee. It shall inform the committee of how it has done so.

3. Where the financing is ECU 1 million or more, the Commission shall submit to the committee referred to in paragraph 2 a list of the projects which have been

⁽¹⁾ OJ C 274, 19.9.1996, p. 13.

⁽²⁾ OJ C 262, 7.10.1995, p. 1.

⁽³⁾ OJ C 221, 19.7.1997, p. 23.

submitted to it. It shall indicate the projects it selects and shall give reasons for its selection. The committee, acting by the majority provided for in the second subparagraph of Article K.4(3) of the Treaty, shall deliver its opinion on the various projects within a period of two weeks. The Chairman shall not vote. If a favourable opinion is not delivered within the time limit, the Commission shall either withdraw the project(s) concerned or submit it (them), with any opinion from the committee, to the Council, which, acting by the majority provided for in the second subparagraph of Article K.4(3) of the Treaty, shall take a decision within one month.

Article 5

The Commission shall keep the Council informed of the results of the specific projects financed by the general budget of the European Communities with a view to assessing the possibility of developing further action in this area on the basis of an appropriate legal instrument.

Article 6

This Joint Action shall enter into force on the day of its adoption.

It shall be applicable until the end of 1998.

Article 7

This Joint Action shall be published in the Official Journal.

Done at Luxembourg, 27 April 1998.

For the Council

The President

R. COOK
