

**Proposal for a Council Decision establishing a programme of incentives and exchanges, training and cooperation for the prevention of crime (Hippocrates)**

(2001/C 96 E/16)

COM(2000) 786 final — 2000/0304(CNS)

*(Submitted by the Commission on 29 November 2000)*

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

applicant countries with a view to facilitating their participation in the projects supported by the programme.

Having regard to the Treaty on European Union, and in particular Article 34(2)(c) thereof,

(7) In accordance with Article 2 of Council Decision 1999/468/EC of 28 June 1999 laying down the procedures for the exercise of implementing powers conferred on the Commission <sup>(1)</sup>, the measures needed for the implementation of this Decision specified in Article 3(1) and the second subparagraph of Article 3(4) should be adopted by the advisory procedure laid down by Article 3 of Decision 1999/468/EC.

Having regard to the Commission initiative of ... 2000,

Having regard to the opinion of the European Parliament,

(8) The measures needed for the implementation of this Decision specified in the first subparagraph of Article 3(4) and the first indent of Article 6(3) being management measures within the meaning of Article 2 of Decision 1999/468/EC of 28 June 1999 laying down the procedures for the exercise of implementing powers conferred on the Commission, they should be taken by the management procedure laid down by Article 4 of Decision 1999/468/EC,

Whereas:

(1) Article 29 of the Treaty on European Union states that the Union's objective is to provide citizens with a high level of safety within an area of freedom, security and justice by developing common action among the Member States, in particular in the field of prevention of crime, whether or not organised.

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

(2) The conclusions of the Tampere European Council call for cooperation in the fight against crime to be stepped up and for the possibility of establishing a programme financed by the Community to support this cooperation to be studied.

*Article 1*

**Establishment of the programme**

(3) Experience gained in managing the other intervention programmes financed by the Community, such as Oisin and Falcone, confirms the value of a similar instrument for crime prevention, to be charged to the budget of the European Communities.

1. This decision establishes a programme of cooperation in the prevention of crime, to be known as 'Hippocrates'.

(4) The optimum effectiveness of the intervention of the European Union will be ensured if it extends to all forms of crime, whether or not organised.

2. The programme is established for a period of two years running from 1 January 2001 to 31 December 2002.

*Article 2*

**Programme objectives**

(5) The complexity of the phenomenon of crime in the Member States and the diversity of prevention policies already implemented by the Member States create a need for multidisciplinary approaches based on familiarity with crime.

1. The programme shall contribute to the general objective of providing citizens with a high level of protection in an area of freedom, security and justice. Within this framework, it is intended to encourage cooperation between all the public and private organisations in the Member States involved in the prevention of crime, whether or not organised.

(6) This programme, like the other programmes for cooperation in justice and home affairs, is open to the

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<sup>(1)</sup> OJ L 184, 17.7.1999, p. 23.

2. The applicant countries may participate in projects in order to familiarise themselves with the Union *acquis* in this area and help them prepare for accession. Other third countries may also participate where this serves the aims of the projects.

#### Article 3

##### Access to the programme

1. The programme shall co-finance projects submitted by public or private organisations in the European Union involved in the prevention of crime.

2. To be eligible for co-financing, the projects must involve at least three Member States, or two Member States and one applicant country, and have the objectives mentioned in Article 2.

3. The programme may also finance:

- specific projects of particular interest in terms of the programme's priorities or cooperation with the applicant countries;
- complementary measures such as seminars, meetings of experts or other activities to disseminate the information obtained under the programme.

#### Article 4

##### Activities of the programme

The programme shall comprise the following types of project:

- Training;
- Exchanges and placements;
- Studies and research;
- Meetings and seminars;
- Dissemination of the results obtained within the framework of the programme.

#### Article 5

##### Financing the programme

1. The annual appropriations shall be authorised by the budgetary authority within the limits of the financial perspective.

2. The co-financing of a project by the programme shall be exclusive of any other financing by another programme financed by the budget of the European Communities.

3. Financing decisions shall be followed by grant contracts between the Commission and the organisers. The financing decisions and contracts arising therefrom shall be subject to financial control by the Commission and to audits by the Court of Auditors.

4. The proportion of financial support from the Community budget shall not exceed 70 % of the cost of the project.

5. However, the specific projects and complementary measures mentioned in Article 3(4) can be financed to 100 %, up to a ceiling of 10 % of the total financial package allocated annually to the programme for each of the two categories.

#### Article 6

##### Implementation of the programme

1. The Commission shall be responsible for the management and implementation of the programme, in cooperation with the Member States.

2. The programme shall be managed by the Commission in accordance with the Financial Regulation of 21 December 1977 applicable to the general budget of the European Communities.

3. To implement the programme, the Commission shall:

- prepare an annual work programme comprising specific objectives, thematic priorities and, if necessary, a list of specific projects and supplementary measures;

- evaluate and select the projects presented by the organisers mentioned in Article 3.

4. The Commission shall submit to the Committee mentioned in Article 7 the draft measures to be taken to implement the project. Examination of the drafts presented by the organisers and of the supplementary measures shall be carried out in accordance with the advisory procedure mentioned in Article 8. Examination of the annual work programme and the specific projects shall be carried out in accordance with the management procedure mentioned in Article 9.

5. The Commission shall evaluate and select projects submitted for financing under the programme on the basis of the following criteria:

- Conformity with the programme's objectives;
- Whether the project has a European dimension and is open to participation by the applicant countries;
- Compatibility with the work undertaken or planned within the framework of the European Union's political priorities on crime prevention;

- Complementarity with other past, present or future cooperation projects;
- Ability of the organiser to implement the project;
- The inherent quality of the project in terms of its conception, organisation, presentation and expected results;
- The amount of the subsidy requested under the programme and whether it is proportionate with the expected results;
- The impact of the expected results on the programme's objectives.

#### Article 7

##### **Committee**

1. The Commission shall be assisted by a Committee to be known as the 'Hippocrates Committee', composed of the representatives of the Member States and chaired by a representative of the Commission.
2. The Committee shall adopt its rules of procedure on a proposal by the chair.
3. The Commission may invite representatives from the applicant countries to briefing sessions after the Committee's meetings.

#### Article 8

##### **Advisory procedure**

Where this Article is referred to, the advisory procedure laid down by Article 3 of Decision 1999/468/EC shall apply, subject to compliance with Article 7(3) of that Decision.

#### Article 9

##### **Management procedure**

1. Where this Article is referred to, the advisory procedure laid down by Article 4 of Decision 1999/468/EC shall apply, subject to compliance with Article 7(3) of that Decision.
2. The period referred to in Article 4(3) of Decision 1999/468/EC shall be three months.

#### Article 10

##### **Evaluation**

1. The Commission shall undertake each year an evaluation of the actions carried out in implementing the programme for the previous year.
2. Each year the Commission shall report to the European Parliament and the Council on the implementation of the programme. The first report shall be presented before 31 July 2002.

#### Article 11

##### **Entry into force**

This Decision shall enter into force on the day of its publication in the *Official Journal of the European Communities*.

This Decision is addressed to the Member States.

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