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COUNCIL DECISION

of 22 July 1997

continuing the application of Joint Action 96/676/CFSP adopted by the Council on the basis of Article J.3 of the Treaty on European Union in relation to the nomination of an EU special envoy for the Middle East peace process

(97/475/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,

Whereas Joint Action 96/676/CFSP of 25 November 1996 adopted by the Council on the basis of Article J.3 of the Treaty on European Union in relation to the nomination of a special envoy for the Middle East peace process⁽¹⁾ expires on 25 November 1997;

Whereas in its conclusions of 26 June 1997 the Council considered that this Joint Action should be continued for a further year,

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1

The application of Joint Action 96/676/CFSP shall be continued until 25 November 1998.

Article 2

In order to cover the expenses connected with Joint Action 96/676/CFSP, an additional amount of ECU 2 051 million shall be charged to the general budget of the European Communities for the financial year 1997.

Article 3

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

Article 4

This Decision shall be published in the Official Journal.

Done at Brussels, 22 July 1997.

For the Council,

The President

J. POOS

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 315, 4. 12. 1996, p. 1.

COUNCIL DECISION

of 22 July 1997

supplementing Joint Action 95/545/CFSP adopted by the Council on the basis of Article J.3 of the Treaty on European Union with regard to the participation of the European Union in the implementing structures of the peace plan for Bosnia and Herzegovina

(97/476/CFSP)

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

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

Article 1

Having regard to the statement by the European Council meeting in Dublin on 13 and 14 December 1996,

Having regard to the conclusions of the European Council meeting in Amsterdam on 16 and 17 June 1997,

Whereas on 11 December 1995 the Council Joint Action 95/545/CFSP with regard to the participation of the Union in the implementing structures of the peace plan for Bosnia and Herzegovina⁽¹⁾ and on 20 November 1996 it was decided, in Decision 96/745/CFSP⁽²⁾, to extend Joint Action 95/545/CFSP until 31 December 1998;

Whereas the Peace Implementation Council strengthened the mission of the High Representative at ministerial conferences held in Paris on 14 November 1996, in London on 4 and 5 December 1996 and in Sintra on 30 May 1997 and regional offices of the High Representative were established in Banja Luka, Mostar and Brcko in addition to the main office in Sarajevo;

Whereas additional funds are required if the High Representative is to continue to perform his duties until 31 December 1998; whereas the High Representative's office has asked all donors for such funds and the contribution of ECU 10 million provided for under Joint Action 95/545/CFSP will be exhausted at some time in 1997,

1. In order to cover the European Union's contribution to the operational expenses involved in the High Representative's mission, ECU 10,860 million shall be charged to the general budget of the European Communities, of which sum ECU 4,60 million shall be for 1997 and ECU 6,26 million for 1998.

2. The management of the expenditure financed by the amount specified in paragraph 1 shall be subject to the procedures and rules of the Community applying to budget matters.

Article 2

This Decision shall enter into force on the day of its adoption and shall apply until 31 December 1998.

Article 3

This Decision shall be published in the Official Journal.

Done at Brussels, 22 July 1997.

For the Council
The President
J. POOS

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 309, 21. 12. 1995, p. 2.

⁽²⁾ OJ No L 340, 30. 12. 1996, p. 3.

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

JOINT ACTION

of 22 July 1997

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

(97/477/JHA)

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Article 2

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

The aggregate cost of the specific projects shall not exceed ECU 10 million.

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

Article 3

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 in 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,

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

Article 4

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 1997.

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

- educational facilities for persons concerned who are under the age of eighteen,
- 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.

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 is 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 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 1997.

This Joint Action shall be published in the Official Journal.

Done at Brussels, 22 July 1997.

For the Council
The President
J. POOS

JOINT ACTION

of 22 July 1997

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

(97/478/JHA)

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Article 2

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

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

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

Article 3

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,

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

Article 4

HAS ADOPTED THIS JOINT ACTION:

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 1997.

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⁾,
- the Council Resolution of 26 June 1997 on unaccompanied minors who are nationals of third countries⁽³⁾.

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 is 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 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

⁽¹⁾ OJ No C 274, 19. 9. 1996, p. 13.

⁽²⁾ OJ No C 262, 7. 10. 1995, p. 1.

⁽³⁾ OJ No C 221, 19. 7. 1997, p. 23.

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 1997.

This Joint Action shall be published in the Official Journal.

Done at Brussels, 22 July 1997.

For the Council

The President

J. POOS
