COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

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NOTE

from: General Secretariat of the Council
to: delegations

No. prev. doc.: 9069/08 EDUC 139 MED 31 SOC 264 PECOS 13 CODEC 549
No. Cion prop.: 12241/07 EDUC 123 MED 33 SOC 290 PECOS

Subject: Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a European Training Foundation (recast)
- Compromise text aimed at reaching a first reading agreement with the European Parliament

Further to the discussions held within the Permanent Representatives Committee on 14 May 2008, delegations will find attached a final Presidency compromise text of the above proposal, which has been sent to the European Parliament with a view to reaching a possible agreement at first reading.

The Council's proposed changes to the original Commission proposal appear in bold underlined (and between \ and \ in accordance with the special software used for recasts), while the changes proposed to take account of the European Parliament's recently adopted amendments appear in bold italics underlined.
ANNEX

2007/0163 (COD)

Proposal for a

1360/90

REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL

establishing a European Training Foundation

(recast)
THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community, and in particular Article 150 thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the Commission,

Having regard to the opinion of the European Parliament,

Having regard to the opinion of the European Economic and Social Committee,

Having regard to the opinion of the Committee of the Regions,

Acting in accordance with the procedure laid down in Article 251 of the Treaty,

Whereas:

1 OJ No C 86, 4. 4. 1990, p. 12.
2 Opinion delivered on 25 April 1990 (not yet published in the Official Journal)
3 OJ C […] , […] , p. […] .
4 OJ C […] , […] , p. […] .
Council Regulation (EEC) No 1360/90 of 7 May 1990 establishing a European Training Foundation has been substantially amended several times. Since further amendments are to be made, it should be recast in the interests of clarity.

Whereas the European Council meeting at Strasbourg on 8 and 9 December 1989 called upon the Council to adopt, at the beginning of 1990, the necessary decisions for the establishment of a European Training Foundation for Central and Eastern Europe, acting on a proposal from the Commission. To this end on 7 May 1990 the Council adopted Regulation (EEC) No 1360/90 which established the said Foundation.

Pursuant to a decision taken by common agreement between the representatives of the Governments of the Member States meeting at Head of State and Government level in Brussels on 29 October 1993, the Foundation has its seat in Turin, Italy.

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(4) Whereas 18 December 1989 the Council adopted Regulation (EEC) No 3906/89 on economic aid to the Republic of Hungary and the Polish People's Republic which provides for aid in areas including training to support the process of economic and social reform in Hungary and Poland.

(5) Whereas the Council may subsequently extend such aid to other countries of Central and Eastern Europe under a relevant legal act.

(6) Whereas the process of economic and social reform will contribute to the development of mutually beneficial economic and commercial relationships between the countries of Central and Eastern Europe and the Community; whereas these intensified relationships will also contribute to a harmonious development of economic activities within the Community.


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On 17 July 1998 the Council adopted Regulation (EC) No 1572/989 amending Regulation (EEC) No 1360/90 with a view to including in the activities of the European Training Foundation the Mediterranean non-member countries and territories which are beneficiaries of the financial and technical measures to accompany the reform of their economy and social structures pursuant to Regulation (EC) No 1488/96.

On 5 December 2000 the Council adopted Regulation (EC) No 2666/200010 on assistance for Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia amending Regulation (EEC) No 1360/90 with a view to including in the activities of the European Training Foundation the Western Balkan States covered by the Regulation.


Through supporting human development in the context of its external relations policy, the EU contributes to economic development in these States by providing the skills necessary to foster productivity and employment and supports social cohesion by promoting civic participation.

11 OJ L 210, 31.7.2006, p. 82.
(12) In the context of these States’ efforts to reform their economic and social structures, the development of human [...][capital] is essential for attaining long-term stability and prosperity and in particular for achieving socio-economic equilibrium.

1360/90 (adapted)
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Council

(13) Whereas The European Training Foundation could make an important contribution, in the context of EU external relations policies, to the effective provision of training assistance to the countries of Central and Eastern Europe eligible for economic aid to support the process of reform improving human [...][capital] development, in particular education and training in a lifelong learning perspective.

(14) Whereas For its contribution, the European Training Foundation will need to call upon the experience gained within the Community in the area of vocational training European Union in implementing a common policy for vocational education and training in a lifelong learning perspective and upon its institutions concerned with training involved in this activity.

(15) Whereas There exist in the Community and in third countries, including the countries of Central and Eastern Europe covered by the activities of the European Training Foundation, regional and/or national, public and/or private facilities which can be called upon to collaborate in the effective provision of aid in the area of human [...][capital] development, in particular education and training in a lifelong perspective.
(16) **Whereas** the status and structure of the European Training Foundation should facilitate a flexible response to the specific and differing requirements of the individual countries to be assisted, and allow it to carry out its functions in close cooperation with the existing national and international bodies.

(17) **Whereas** the European Training Foundation should be endowed with legal personality, while maintaining a close corporate relationship with the Commission and respecting the overall political and operational responsibilities of the Community and its institutions.

(18) **Whereas** the European Training Foundation should have close links with the European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training, with the Trans-European Mobility Scheme for University Studies (Tempus) and any other schemes instituted by the Council to provide aid in the area of training to the countries of Central and Eastern Europe covered by its activities.

(19) **Whereas** the European Training Foundation should be open to the participation of countries which are not members of the Community and which share the commitment of the Community and the Member States to the provision of aid to the countries covered by the activities of the European Training Foundation in the training field of human capital development, in particular education and training in a lifelong perspective, under arrangements to be laid down in agreements between the Community and themselves.
(20) The Commission, the European Parliament and all the Member States should be represented within a Governing Board in order to oversee effectively the functions of the Foundation.

(21) In order to guarantee the full autonomy and independence of the Foundation, it should be granted an autonomous budget whose revenues come primarily from a contribution from the Community. The Community budgetary procedure should be applicable as far as the Community contribution and any other subsidies chargeable to the general budget of the European Union are concerned. The auditing of accounts should be undertaken by the Court of Auditors.

(22) The Foundation is a body set up by the Communities in the sense of Article 185(1) of Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002 of 25 June 2002 on the Financial Regulation applicable to the general budget of the European Communities (hereinafter "the Financial Regulation") and should adopt its financial rules accordingly.

(24) In order to combat fraud, corruption and other unlawful activities the provisions of Regulation (EC) No 1073/1999 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 May 1999 concerning investigations conducted by the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF)\(^\text{15}\) should apply without restriction to the Foundation.


(26) Regulation (EC) No 45/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 December 2000 on the protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data by the Community institutions and bodies and on the free movement of such data\(^\text{17}\) should apply to the processing of personal data by the Foundation.

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\(^{15}\) OJ L 136, 31.5.1999, p.1
\(^{16}\) OJ L 145, 31.5.2001, p.43
\(^{17}\) OJ L 8, 12.1.2001, p.1
(27) Since the objectives of the action to be taken, namely assistance to third countries in the field of human capital development, cannot be sufficiently achieved by the Member States and can therefore be better achieved at Community level, the Community may adopt measures, in accordance with the principle of subsidiarity as set out in Article 5 of the Treaty. In accordance with the principle of proportionality, as set out in that Article, this Regulation does not go beyond what is necessary in order to achieve those objectives.

(28) This Regulation observes the fundamental rights recognised by the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, in particular Article 43 thereof.

(29) Whereas the Treaty does not provide, for the action concerned, powers other than those of Article 235.

HAS HAVE ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

Article 1

Subject matter and scope Objectives
This Regulation hereby establishes the European Training Foundation (hereinafter referred to as the «Foundation»), whose objective shall be to contribute to the development of the vocational training systems of, in the context of EU external relations policies, to improving human capital development, in the following countries:

- the countries of Central and Eastern Europe designated as eligible for economic aid by the Council in Regulation (EEC) No 3906/89 or in any subsequent relevant legal act,
- the new independent States of the former Soviet Union and Mongolia which are the beneficiaries of the programme to assist economic reform and recovery pursuant to Regulation (Euratom, EC) No 1279/96 or any subsequent relevant legal act,
- the Mediterranean non-member countries and territories which are the beneficiaries of the financial and technical measures to accompany the reform of their economic and social structures pursuant to Regulation (EC) No 1488/96 or any subsequent relevant legal act, and
- the countries which are beneficiaries under Regulation (EC) No 2666/2000 or any subsequent relevant legal act.

Those countries shall be hereinafter referred to as the «eligible countries».

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a) the countries eligible for support under Council Regulation (EC) No 1085/2006 establishing an instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance and subsequent related legal acts;

b) the countries eligible for support under Regulation (EC) No 1638/2006 laying down general provisions establishing a European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument and subsequent related legal acts;

c) other countries designated by decision of the Governing Board on the basis of a proposal supported by two-thirds of its members and a Commission opinion, and covered by a Community instrument or international agreement that includes a component of human capital development, and as far as available resources allow.

The countries under a), b) and c) are hereinafter designated as the "partner countries".

For the purpose of this Regulation, human capital development shall be defined as 'work, which contributes to the lifelong development of each individual's skills and competences through the improvement of vocational education and training systems.'

In order to achieve its objective, the Foundation may provide assistance to partner countries on:
- facilitating adaptation to industrial changes, in particular through vocational training and retraining;

- improving initial and continuing vocational training in order to facilitate vocational integration and reintegration into the labour market;

- facilitating access to vocational training and encouraging mobility of instructors and trainees and particularly young people;

- stimulating cooperation on training between educational establishments and firms;

- developing exchanges of information and experience on issues common to the training systems of the Member States;

- increasing the adaptability of workers, particularly through increased participation in education and training in a lifelong learning perspective;

- designing, introducing and implementing reforms in education and training systems, in order to develop employability and labour market relevance.
The Foundation shall in particular:

- seek to promote effective cooperation between the Community and the eligible countries in the field of vocational training;
- contribute to the coordination of assistance provided by the Community, its Member States and the third countries referred to in Article 16.

Article 2

Scope

Following the general guidelines established at Community level, the Foundation shall work in the training field, covering initial and continuing vocational training as well as retraining for young people and adults, including in particular management training.
For the purpose of achieving the objectives set out in Article 1, the Foundation shall, within the limits of the powers conferred on the Governing Board and following the general guidelines established at Community level, shall have the following functions:

(a) provide assistance in the definition of training needs and priorities through the implementation of measures of technical assistance in the training field, and through cooperation with the appropriate designated bodies in the eligible countries;

(b) act as a clearing house to provide the Community, its Member States and the third countries referred to in Article 16, together with the eligible countries and all other interested parties, with information on current initiatives and future needs in the training field, and provide a framework through which offers of assistance can be channelled.
(e) on the basis of (a) and (b),

- examine the scope for joint ventures of training assistance including pilot projects, for the setting-up of specialized multinational teams for specific projects and for identifying operations which could be cofinanced;

- fund the design and the preparation of such projects, the implementation of which may be financed by contributions from one or several countries, together with the Foundation, or, in exceptional cases, from the Foundation on its own;

- implement, at the request of the Commission or of the eligible countries in cooperation with the governing board, vocational training programmes agreed on by the Commission and one or more of the eligible countries as part of the Community policy of assistance to these countries, using multidisciplinary teams of specialists in close collaboration with the competent authorities in the countries involved and drawing actively on the experience of Community vocational training programmes;

- in the selection of projects to be managed by the Foundation, priority will be given to projects of an innovative value and— for the candidate countries for accession—to projects which relate directly to the Community's programmes in the field of vocational training.
(d) for activities and projects which are funded by the Foundation: arrange for the appropriate public and/or private bodies with a proven training record and the necessary expertise to design, prepare, implement and/or manage projects on a flexible, decentralized basis.

(e) confer on the governing board the power to lay down tendering procedures for projects funded or co-financed by the Foundation, taking due account of the procedures established pursuant to Regulation (EEC) No 3906/89, in particular Article 7 thereof, pursuant to Regulation (Euratom, EC) No 1279/96, in particular Articles 6 and 7 thereof, Regulation (EC) No 1488/96, in particular Article 8 thereof, or in any subsequent relevant legal act.

(f) in collaboration with the Commission, assist in the monitoring and evaluation of the overall effectiveness of training assistance to the eligible countries.

(g) disseminate information and encourage exchanges of experience, through publications, meetings, and other appropriate means.
a) provide information, policy analysis and advice on human capital development issues in the partner countries;

b) promote knowledge and analysis of skills needs in national and local labour markets;

c) support relevant stakeholders in partner countries to build capacity in human capital development;

d) facilitate the exchange of information and experience among donors engaged in human capital development reform in partner countries;

e) support the delivery of Community assistance to partner countries in the field of human capital development;

f) disseminate information and encourage networking and exchanges of experience and good practice between the European Union and partner countries and amongst partner countries on human capital development issues;

f) at the Commission's request, contribute to the analysis of the overall effectiveness of training assistance to the partner countries;
(h) within the general framework of this Regulation, undertake such other tasks as may be agreed between the Governing Board and the Commission, within the general framework of this Regulation.

Article 42

General provisions

1. The Foundation shall have legal personality. It shall enjoy in each of the Member States the most extensive legal capacity accorded to legal persons under their laws; it may, in particular, acquire or dispose of movable and immovable property and may be a party to legal proceedings. It shall be non-profit making.

2. The Foundation shall have its seat in Turin, Italy.
3. The Foundation shall cooperate with the other relevant Community bodies, in particular Cedefop, with the support of the Commission. The Foundation shall cooperate, in particular, with the European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training (Cedefop) in the framework of a joint annual work programme annexed to the annual work programme of each agency with the objective of promoting synergy and complementarity between the activities of the two agencies.

2. Representatives of the social partners at European level which are already active in the work of the Community institutions, and international organizations active in the training field, may be associated with the work of the Foundation, notably as provided for in Articles 5 (8) and 6 (1) and (2). 3a. Representatives of the social partners at European level which are already active in the work of Community institutions, and international organisations active in the training field, may, where appropriate, be invited to participate in the work of the Foundation.
4. [...] The Foundation shall be subject to the administrative control of the European Ombudsman, pursuant to the conditions set out in Article 195 of the EC Treaty.

5. The Foundation may establish co-operation agreements with other relevant bodies active in the human capital development field in the EU and internationally. The Governing Board shall adopt such agreements on the basis of a draft submitted by the Director after the Commission has delivered its opinion. The working arrangements contained therein must comply with Community law.

\[1648/2003 \text{Art. 1.1 (adapted)}\]

**Article 4**

**Access to documents** Transparency

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1. The Foundation shall act with a high level of transparency and comply with the provisions under paragraphs 2 to 4.

2. The Foundation shall make public within six months of setting up its Governing Board:

   a) its own Rules of Procedure and those of the Governing Board;

   b) its annual activity report.

3. The Governing Board may authorise representatives of interested parties, in appropriate cases, to attend meetings of the Foundation’s bodies in the capacity of observers.

4. Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001 shall apply to documents held by the Foundation. The Governing Board shall adopt the practical arrangements for applying the said Regulation.
Article 5

Confidentiality

1. Without prejudice to Article 4 (4), the Foundation shall not divulge to third parties confidential information it has received for which confidential treatment has been requested and is justified.

2. The members of the Governing Board and the Director shall be subject to the confidentiality requirement referred to in Article 287 of the EC Treaty.

3. The information gathered by the Foundation in accordance with its basic act shall be subject to Regulation (EC) No 45/2001.


Article 6

Remedies

Decisions taken by the Foundation pursuant to Article 8 of Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001 may form the subject of a complaint to the Ombudsman or of an action before the Court of Justice of the European Communities, under the conditions laid down in Articles 195 and 230 of the Treaty respectively.

Article 57

Governing Board

1. The Foundation shall have a governing board consisting of one representative of each Member State and three representatives of the Commission.

An alternate member may represent or accompany each member of the governing board; when accompanying a member, the alternate member shall attend without having the right to vote.

2. The representatives of the Member States shall be appointed by the Member States concerned.

The Commission shall appoint the members who are to represent it.
1. The Foundation shall have a Governing Board consisting of one representative of each Member State, three representatives of the Commission, as well as three non-voting experts appointed by the European Parliament.

In addition, three representatives of the partner countries may attend meetings of the Governing Board as observers.

Representatives may be replaced by alternates appointed at the same time.

2. The Member States and the Commission shall each appoint their own representatives and their alternates to the Governing Board.

The representatives of the partner countries shall be appointed by the Commission on the basis of a list of candidates proposed by those countries and of their experience and expertise in the Foundation’s areas of work.

The Member States, the European Parliament and the Commission shall endeavour to achieve a balanced representation of men and women on the Governing Board.
3. The term of office of representatives shall be three years. It shall be renewable once.

4. The Governing Board shall be chaired by one of the representatives of the Commission. The term of office of the Chairperson shall expire when their respective membership of the Governing Board ceases. The chairman shall not vote.

5. The Governing Board shall adopt its Rules of Procedure.

Article 8

Voting rules and tasks of the Chairperson

1. The representatives of the Member States on the Governing Board shall each have one vote. The representatives of the Commission shall have one vote between them. The representatives of the Commission shall have one vote between them.
Decisions of the Governing Board shall require a two-thirds majority of the members of the board, entitled to vote, except in the cases referred to in paragraphs 52 and 3.

52. The Governing Board shall determine, by a unanimous decision of its members, entitled to vote, the rules governing the languages of the Foundation, taking into account the need to ensure access to, and participation in, the work of the Foundation by all interested parties.
6.3. The Chairman shall convene the Governing Board at least once a year. Further meetings may be convened at the request of a simple majority of the members of the Governing Board entitled to vote.

The Chairman shall be responsible for informing the board of other Community activities relevant to their work and of the Commission's expectations concerning the Foundation's activities in the forthcoming year.

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7. On the basis of a draft submitted by the director of the Foundation, the Governing Board, in consultation with the Commission, shall examine the preliminary draft annual work programme for the following year by 30 November at the latest. The final adoption of the work programme shall take place at the beginning of each year, within the framework of a three-year going perspective. Where necessary, the programme may be adapted during the year using the same procedure in order to ensure greater effectiveness of Community policies.

The projects and activities in the annual work programme shall be accompanied by an estimate of the necessary expenditure and by allocations of staff and budgetary resources.

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8. The Governing Board shall approve, as necessary and on a case-by-case basis, the setting up of ad hoc sectoral working parties involving all the countries or organizations contributing to the finance of the different projects concerned as well as other interested parties, including where appropriate representatives of social partners.
9. The Governing Board shall adopt the Foundation’s annual report and forward it by 15 June at the latest to the European Parliament, the Council, the Commission, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Court of Auditors. The report shall also be forwarded to the Member States and, for information, to the eligible countries.

10. The Foundation shall forward annually to the budgetary authority any information relevant to the outcome of the evaluation procedures.

Article 9

Powers of the Governing Board

The Governing Board shall have the following functions and powers:

a) Appoint and, where necessary, dismiss the Director of the Foundation in accordance with the provisions of Article 10.5;

b) exercise disciplinary authority over the Director;
c) adopt the Foundation’s annual work programme on the basis of a draft submitted by the Director of the Foundation after the Commission has delivered its opinion, in accordance with the provisions of Article 12;

d) draw up an annual estimate of expenditure and revenue for the Foundation and forward it to the Commission;

e) adopt the Foundation's definitive budget and establishment plan following completion of the annual budget procedure, in accordance with the provisions of Article 16;

f) adopt the Foundation’s annual activity report, in accordance with the procedure laid down in Article 13 and send to the institutions and the Member States;

g) adopt the Foundation’s Rules of Procedure on the basis of a draft submitted by the Director after the Commission has delivered its opinion;

h) adopt the financial rules applicable to the Foundation on the basis of a draft submitted by the Director after the Commission has delivered its opinion, in accordance with the provisions of Article 19;

i) adopt the procedures for applying Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001, in accordance with the provisions of Article 4 of this Regulation.
Article 6

Advisory forum

1. The Foundation shall have an advisory forum appointed by the governing board.

The members of the forum shall be selected from experts among training and other circles concerned in the work of the Foundation, taking into account the need to ensure the presence of representatives of the social partners, of the Commission, of those international organisations active in the provision of training assistance, and of the eligible countries and territories.

There shall be appointed two experts from each of the Member States, from each of the eligible countries and from the social partners at European level.
2. The governing board shall seek nominations for appointment from:

- each of the Member States,
- each of the eligible countries,
- the Commission,
- the social partners at European level which are already active in the work of the Community institutions, and
- relevant international organisations.

3. The term of office of the members of the advisory forum shall normally be for three years, subject to regular review by the governing board.

4. The task of the advisory forum shall be to deliver opinions to the governing board either at the request of the board or on its own initiative concerning the annual work programme of the Foundation referred to in Article 5 (7).

All opinions shall be communicated to the governing board.
5. The director of the Foundation shall be the chairman of the advisory forum.

The advisory forum shall draw up its rules of procedure, subject to the approval of the governing board.

6. The advisory forum shall be convened by its chairman once a year.

Article 10

The Director

1. The Director of the Foundation shall be appointed by the Governing Board on the basis of a list of at least three candidates submitted by the Commission. Before being appointed, the candidate selected by the Governing Board shall be invited to make a statement before the competent committee(s) of the European Parliament and answer questions put by its/their members.
In the course of the 9 months preceding the end of this period, the Commission shall undertake an evaluation, on the basis of a prior evaluation by external experts, which shall assess in particular:

- the performance of the Director;
- the Foundation's duties and requirements in the coming years.

The Governing Board, acting on a proposal by the Commission, taking into account the evaluation report and only in those cases where it can be justified by the duties and requirements of the Foundation, may extend the term of office of the Director once for not more than three years.

The Governing Board shall inform the European Parliament about its intention to extend the Director's term of office. Within a month before the extension of his/her term of office, the Director may be invited to make a statement before the competent committee(s) of the European Parliament and answer questions put by its/their members.

If the term of office is not extended, the Director shall remain in office until the appointment of his/her successor.

2. The Director shall be appointed on the basis of merit, administrative and management skills and expertise and experience in the field of work of the Foundation.

3. The Director shall be the legal representative of the Foundation.
The Director shall be responsible for the following functions and powers:

- the preparation and organisation of the work of the governing board, of any ad hoc working parties convened by the governing board and, in particular, for the preparation of the draft annual work programme of the Foundation, taking into account the general guidelines established at Community level.
- the day to day administration of the Foundation.
- the preparation of the draft estimate of the Foundation's revenue and expenditure and the execution of its budget.
- the preparation and publication of reports specified under this Regulation.
- all staff matters.
- undertaking the tasks with which he is charged pursuant to Article 3 and those set out in the annual work programme referred to in Article 5(7).
- implementing the governing board's decisions and the guidelines set down for the Foundation's activities.
a) prepare, on the basis of general guidelines established by the Commission, the annual work programme, the draft estimate of expenditure and revenue of the Foundation, its Rules of Procedure and those of the Governing Board, its financial rules and the work of the Governing Board, and any ad hoc working parties convened by the Governing Board;

b) take part, without the right to vote, in meetings of the Governing Board;

c) implement the decisions of the Governing Board;

d) implement the Foundation’s annual work programme and respond to requests for assistance from the Commission;

e) perform the duties of authorising officer, in accordance with Articles 33 to 42 of Commission Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 2343/2002;

f) implement the Foundation’s budget;

g) put in place an effective monitoring system to allow the regular evaluations referred to in Article 24 to be carried out and, in this basis, prepare a draft annual report on the Foundation’s activities;

h) present the report to the European Parliament;

i) manage all staff-related matters, and in particular exercise the powers provided for in Article 21;

j) define the Foundation's organisational structure and submit it to the Governing Board for approval;

k) represent the Foundation before the European Parliament and the Council in accordance with the provisions of Article 18.
2.5. The Director shall be accountable for his/her actions to the Governing Board for his activities and shall attend its meetings, which may remove the Director from his/her duties before his/her term of office has expired on a proposal of the Commission.

3. The director shall be the legal representative of the Foundation.

Article II

Public interest and independence

The members of the Governing Board and the Director shall act in the public interest and independently of any external influence. To this end they shall make a written declaration of commitment and a written declaration of interests every year.
Article 12

Annual work programme

1. The annual work programme shall comply with the subject matter, scope and functions of the Foundation as defined in Articles 1 and 2 of this Regulation.

2. It shall be drafted within the framework of a four-year multiannual work programme in cooperation with the Commission services and with regard to the external relations priorities for the countries and regions concerned and on the basis of experience acquired in education and training within the Community.

3. The projects and activities in the annual work programme shall be accompanied by an estimate of the necessary expenditure and by allocations of staff and budgetary resources.

4. The Director shall submit the draft work programme to the Governing Board after the Commission has delivered an opinion on it.

5. The Governing Board shall adopt the draft annual work programme for the following year by 30 November at the latest. The final adoption of the work programme shall take place at the beginning of each year.

6. Where necessary, the programme may be adapted during the year using the same procedure in order to ensure greater effectiveness of Community policies.
Article 13

Annual activity report

1. The Director shall report to the Governing Board on the performance of his/her duties in the form of an annual activity report.

2. The report shall contain financial and management information indicating the results of operations by reference to the annual work programme and to the objectives set, the risks associated with [...] those operations, the use made of the resources provided and the way the internal control system functioned.

3. The Governing Board shall draft an analysis and an assessment of the annual activity report on the previous financial year.

4. The Governing Board shall adopt the Director’s annual activity report and forward it together with its analysis and an assessment to the competent bodies in the European Parliament, the Council, the Commission, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Court of Auditors by 15 June at the latest. The report shall also be forwarded to the Member States and, for information, to the partner countries.

4a. The Director of the Foundation shall present the Foundation's annual report before the relevant committees of the European Parliament and preparatory bodies of the Council.
Article 814

Links with other Community actions

The Commission, in cooperation with the Governing Board and, where appropriate, in accordance with the procedures set out in Article 9 of Regulation (EEC) No 3906/89, Article 8 of Regulation (Euratom, EC) No 1279/96 and Article 11 of Regulation (EC) No 1488/96 or in any subsequent relevant legal act, shall ensure consistency and, where necessary, complementarity between the work of the Foundation and other actions at Community level, both within the Community and in assistance to the eligible partner countries, with particular reference to actions under the Tempus programme and to the other programmes and actions for training that are implemented at Community level, including Med Campus.
Article 9/5

Budget content

1. Estimates of all the revenue and expenditure of the Foundation shall be prepared for each financial year and shall be shown in the budget of the Foundation, which shall include an establishment plan, and each financial year shall correspond to the calendar year.

2. The revenue and expenditure shown in the budget of the Foundation shall be in balance.

3. The revenue of the Foundation shall comprise, without prejudice to other types of income, a subsidy from the general budget of the European Communities, payments made as remuneration for services performed as well as finance from other sources.

4. The budget shall also include details of any funds made available by the eligible countries themselves for projects benefiting from financial assistance from the Foundation.
Budgetary procedure

1. Each year the Governing Board, on the basis of a draft drawn up by the Director, shall produce an estimate of revenue and expenditure for the Foundation for the following financial year. This estimate, which shall include a draft establishment plan, shall be forwarded by the Governing Board to the Commission by 31 March at the latest.

2. The Commission shall examine the estimate, having regard to the proposed limits of the overall amount available for external actions, and enter in the preliminary draft general budget of the European Union the resources it deems necessary for the establishment plan and the amount of the subsidy to be charged to the general budget of the European Union (hereinafter referred to as "the general budget").
2.3. The estimate shall be forwarded by the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council (hereinafter referred to as the "budgetary authority") together with the preliminary draft general budget of the European Union.

2. The Commission shall examine the estimate, having regard to the vocational training priorities in the eligible countries and to the overall financial orientations on economic aid to these countries. On the basis of the estimate, the Commission shall enter in the preliminary draft general budget of the European Union the estimates it deems necessary for the establishment plan and the amount of the subsidy to be charged to the general budget, which it shall place before the budgetary authority in accordance with Article 272 of the Treaty.

It shall establish on this basis, and within the proposed limits of the overall amount to be made available for economic aid to the eligible countries, the annual contribution for the budget of the Foundation to be included in the preliminary draft general budget of the European Union.

4. The budgetary authority shall authorise the appropriations for the subsidy to the Foundation.

The budgetary authority shall adopt the establishment plan for the Foundation.

5. The budget of the Foundation and the establishment plan shall be adopted by the Governing Board. They shall become definitive after final adoption of the general budget of the European Union. Where appropriate, if necessary the budget and the establishment plan shall be adjusted accordingly.
6. The Governing Board shall, as soon as possible, notify the budgetary authority of its intention to implement any project which may have significant financial implications for the funding of its budget, in particular any projects relating to property such as the rental or purchase of buildings. It shall inform the Commission thereof.

Where a branch of the budgetary authority has notified its intention to deliver an opinion, it shall forward its opinion to the Governing Board within a period of six weeks from the date of notification of the project.

Article 17

Budget implementation and control

1. The director shall implement the budget of the Foundation.

2.1. By 1 March at the latest following each financial year, the Foundation's accounting officer shall communicate the provisional accounts to the Commission's accounting officer together with a report on the budgetary and financial management for that financial year. The Commission's accounting officer shall consolidate the provisional accounts of the institutions and decentralised bodies in accordance with Article 128 of the general Financial Regulation.
3.2. By 31 March at the latest following each financial year, the Commission's accounting officer shall forward the Foundation's provisional accounts to the Court of Auditors, together with a report on the budgetary and financial management for that financial year. The report on the budgetary and financial management for that financial year shall also be forwarded to the European Parliament and the Council.

3. The Director shall implement the budget of the Foundation.

4. On receipt of the Court of Auditors' observations on the Foundation's provisional accounts, pursuant to Article 129 of the general Financial Regulation, the Director shall draw up the Foundation's final accounts under his/her own responsibility and forward them to the Governing Board for an opinion.

5. The Governing Board shall deliver an opinion on the Foundation's final accounts.

6. The Director shall, by 1 July at the latest following each financial year, forward these final accounts to the European Parliament, the Council, the Commission and the Court of Auditors, together with the Governing Board's opinion.

7. The final accounts shall be published.
8. The Foundation's Director shall send the Court of Auditors a reply to its observations by 30 September at the latest. He/she shall also send this reply to the Governing Board.

9. The Director shall submit to the European Parliament, at the latter's request, any information required for the smooth application of the discharge procedure for the financial year in question, as laid down in Article 146(3) of the general Financial Regulation.

10. The European Parliament, on a recommendation from the Council acting by a qualified majority, shall, before 30 April of year N + 2, give a discharge to the Director in respect of the implementation of the budget for year N.

11. The Director shall take all appropriate steps required, if necessary, by the observations accompanying the decision giving discharge.

Article 18

European Parliament and Council

Without prejudice to the controls referred to above and, in particular the budgetary and discharge procedures, the European Parliament or the Council may ask at any time for a hearing with the Director on any subject relating to the Foundation’s activities.
Article 12

Financial Rules

1. The financial rules applicable to the Foundation shall be adopted by the Governing Board after the Commission has been consulted. They may not depart from Commission Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 2343/2002 of 19 November 2002 on the framework Financial Regulation for the bodies referred to in Article 185 of Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002 on the Financial Regulation applicable to the general budget of the European Communities unless specifically required for the Foundation's operation and with the Commission's prior consent.

2. In accordance with Article 133(1) of the Financial Regulation, the Foundation shall apply the accounting rules adopted by the Commission’s accounting officer so that its accounts can be consolidated with those of the Commission.

3. Regulation (EC) No 1073/1999 shall apply to the Foundation in its entirety.

4. The Foundation shall respect the Interinstitutional Agreement of 25 May 1999 concerning internal investigations by the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF). The Governing Board shall adopt the necessary measures to help OLAF carry out such internal investigations.

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22 OJ L 136, 31.5.1999, p. 15
Article 13

Privileges and immunities

The Protocol on the privileges and immunities of the European Communities shall apply to the Foundation.

Article 14

Staff rules

The staff of the Foundation shall be governed by the rules and regulations applicable to the officials and other servants of the European Communities.

The Foundation shall exercise over its staff the powers devolved to the appointing authority.

The Governing Board shall, in agreement with the Commission, adopt the appropriate implementing rules in accordance with the arrangements provided for in Article 110 of the Staff Regulations of Officials of the European Communities and Article 127 of the Conditions of Employment of Other Servants of the European Communities.
The Governing Board may adopt provisions to allow national experts from Member States or partner countries to be employed on secondment to the Foundation.

Article 15

Legal Liability

1. The contractual liability of the Foundation shall be governed by the law applicable to the contract in question.

2. In the case of non-contractual liability, the Foundation shall, in accordance with the general principles common to laws of the Member States, make good any damage caused by the Foundation or its servants in the performance of their duties.

The Court of Justice shall have jurisdiction in disputes relating to compensation for any such damage.

3. The personal liability of servants towards the Foundation shall be governed by the relevant provisions applying to the staff of the Foundation.
Article 16

Participation of third countries

1. The Foundation shall be open to the participation of countries which are not members of the European Community and which share the commitment of the Community and the Member States to the provision of aid in the training field to the eligible human capital development field to the partner countries defined in Article 1, under arrangements to be laid down in agreements between the Community and themselves, following the procedure laid down in Article 228 of the Treaty.

The agreements shall, inter alia, specify the nature and extent of and the detailed rules for the participation by these countries in the work of the Foundation including provisions on financial contributions and staff. Such agreements may not provide for third countries to be represented on the Governing Board with voting rights or contain provisions not in accordance with the Staff rules set out in Article 21 above.
2. Participation of such countries in the *ad hoc* working parties provided for in Article 5(8) may be decided as necessary by the Governing Board without the need for an agreement.

Article 1724

**Monitoring and Evaluation procedure**

1. In accordance with Article 25(4) of the framework Financial Regulation, the Foundation shall regularly carry out *ex ante* and *ex post* evaluations of its activities where these necessitate significant expenditure. The Governing Board shall be notified of the results of these evaluations.
2. The Commission shall, in consultation with the Governing Board, establish a monitoring and evaluation procedure of the experience acquired in the work of the Foundation. It shall conduct an evaluation of the implementation of this Regulation, the results obtained by the Foundation and its working methods in line with the objectives, mandate and functions defined herein every four years. This procedure should be carried out by external experts. The Commission shall present the first results of this procedure in a report to be submitted to the European Parliament, the Council and the European Economic and Social Committee before 31 December 2000 and thereafter every three years.

3. The Foundation shall take all appropriate steps to remedy any problems which may come to light in the process of evaluation.
Review

This Regulation shall be reviewed by the Council on a proposal from the Commission within five years of its entry into force.

Following evaluation, the Commission shall present, where necessary, a proposal for the revision of the provisions of this Regulation. If the Commission feels that the existence of the Foundation is no longer justified with regard to the objectives assigned to it, it may propose that this Regulation be repealed.
Article 26

Repeal

and Article 16 of Council Regulation (EC) No 2666/2000, as listed in Annex I, are repealed.

References to the repealed Regulations shall be construed as references to this Regulation and shall be read in accordance with the correlation table in Annex II.

Article 19

Entry into force

This Regulation shall enter into force on the 20th day following that on which the competent authorities have decided on the seat of the Foundation of its publication in the Official Journal of the European Union.

This Regulation shall be binding in its entirety and directly applicable in all Member States.

23 The date of entry into force of the Regulation shall be published in the Official Journal.
ANNEX I

Repealed Regulation and successive amendments

(OJ L 131, 23.5.1990, p. 1)


(OJ L 206, 23.7.1998, p. 1)


(OJ L 245, 29.9.2003, p. 22)
## ANNEX II

### Correlation table

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