

**Proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Council Regulation (EC) No 577/98 on the organisation of a labour force sample survey in the Community**

(2001/C 270 E/04)

(Text with EEA relevance)

COM(2001) 319 final — 2001/0127(COD)

(Submitted by the Commission on 13 June 2001)

THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community, and in particular Article 285(1) thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the Commission,

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

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

Whereas:

- (1) Council Regulation (EC) No 577/98 on the organisation of a labour force sample survey in the Community<sup>(1)</sup> lays down the basic provisions for a labour force sample survey, designed to provide comparable statistical information on the level and pattern of and trends in employment and unemployment in the Member States.
- (2) An expeditious implementation by all Member States of the continuous labour force sample survey required by Council Regulation (EC) No 577/98 was considered a priority action in the Action Plan on EMU Statistical Requirements endorsed by the Council on 19 January 2001.
- (3) Sufficient time has now passed since Council Regulation (EC) No 577/98 took effect to allow all Member States to make the arrangements and commitments needed fully to implement that Regulation<sup>(2)</sup>; however not all Member States have made such arrangements and commitments. Therefore, the derogation that allows Member States to limit themselves to an annual survey should be subject to a time limit.
- (4) Following the entry into force of Council Decision 1999/468/EC of June 1999 laying down the procedures for the exercise of implementing powers conferred on the Commission<sup>(3)</sup> new rules of procedure should be introduced.
- (5) Regulation (EC) No 577/98 should be amended accordingly.

- (6) The Statistical Programme Committee, established by Council Decision 89/382/EEC, Euratom<sup>(4)</sup> has been consulted in accordance with Article 3 of that Decision,

HAVE ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

*Article 1*

Council Regulation (EC) No 577/98 is amended as follows:

1. Article 1, second paragraph is replaced by the following text:

'The survey shall be a continuous survey providing quarterly and annual results; however, during a transitional period not extending beyond 2002, Member States that are unable to implement a continuous survey shall instead carry out an annual survey, to take place in the spring.'

2. Article 8 shall be replaced by the following text:

'1. The Commission shall be assisted by the Statistical Programme Committee instituted by Article 1 of Council Decision No 89/382/EEC, Euratom, composed of representatives of the Member States and chaired by the representative of the Commission.

2. Where reference is made to this paragraph, the regulatory procedure laid down in Article 5 of Decision 1999/468/EC shall apply, in compliance with Article 7(3) and Article 8 thereof.

3. The period provided for in Article 5(6) of Decision 1999/468/EC shall be three months.'

*Article 2*

This Regulation shall enter into force on the twentieth day following that of its publication in the *Official Journal of the European Communities*.

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

<sup>(1)</sup> OJ L 77 of 14.3.1998, p. 3.

<sup>(2)</sup> Commission report to EP and Council on 'Implementation on the Council Regulation (EC) No 577/98 of a labour force in the Community', COM(2000) 895 final.

<sup>(3)</sup> OJ L 184 of 17.7.1999, p. 23.

<sup>(4)</sup> OJ L 181 of 28.6.1989, p. 47.