COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

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Brussels, 23 October 1991

Proposal for a

COUNCIL DECISION

establishing a third Community action programme to assist disabled people (HELIOS II (1992-96))

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

THIRD COMMUNITY ACTION PROGRAMME

FOR DISABLED PEOPLE

- HELIOS II* - (1992-96)

A. REVIEW OF COMMUNITY MEASURES FOR DISABLED PEOPLE

1. A multidimensional approach

With some thirty million nationals affected by physical, sensory, mental or psychological disabilities (about 10% of the population), the European Community is working towards the economic and social integration of disabled people as part of the general drive to raise the standard of living of all its citizens.
The Member States first signalled their commitment in this field with the establishment of a Social Action Programme adopted by the Council in 1974(1). In view of the growing needs of disabled people, the Commission launched a first Community action programme in 1983.

Whereas the Community's contribution to national efforts initially focused on the technical exchange of experiences, it subsequently turned its attention to devising a comprehensive, consistent policy, entailing the preparation of various Community instruments in favour of disabled people. Thus, the Council adopted a Recommendation in 1986(2), concerning the employment of disabled people, and a programme of European collaboration on the integration of handicapped children into ordinary schools was introduced in 1987(3).
A further step was taken in 1988, with the adoption by the Council of the second Community action programme covering the period 1988-1991(4), which was designated HELIOS (Handicapped People in the European community Living Independently in an Open Society). Its purpose was to extend and build on the activities of the previous programme, with special emphasis on helping disabled people to live more independently. A framework, basis and criteria were thus laid down for the development, at Community level, of a comprehensive, consistent policy, in the form of practical, concrete proposals in various key sectors.

Over the last few years, various provisions have been adopted in different fields relating to disabled people.

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* HELIOS: Handicapped people in the European community Living Independently in an Open Society

(1) OJ No C 13, 12.2.1974, p. 1.
(2) OJ No L 225, 12.8.1986, p. 43.
(3) OJ No C 211, 8.8.1987, p. 1.
(4) OJ No L 104, 23.4.1988, p. 38.

On the basis of a Commission report, the Council gave its conclusions in 1989[5] on the employment of disabled people, with a view to ensuring equal opportunities in access to vocational training and employment by encouraging the participation of all the parties involved.

The Community Charter of Fundamental Social Rights of workers contains a section on disabled people.

With a view to implementing the Charter, the Commission drew up an action programme and submitted to the Council a proposal for a Directive on the mobility and transport of persons with reduced mobility[6]. Mobility and the provision of transport to the place of work are an integral part of the vocational integration and individual development of disabled people.

In 1990, the Council of Ministers adopted a Resolution concerning the integration of children and young people with disabilities into ordinary systems of education[7].

2. Other Community programmes, activities and initiatives for disabled people

The Commission has, over recent years, launched a range of programmes, activities and initiatives with a view to meeting the specific needs of disabled people.

A general overview of these activities is set out in Annex a (p. 14).

B. OBJECTIVES AND PROVISIONAL REPORT ON THE HELIOS I PROGRAMME

The aims of the HELIOS I action programme were:

- to identify innovatory approaches and measures with a view to improved convergence and coordination of measures taken in the Member States for disabled people,
- to add a Community element in respect of the integration of disabled people through an exchange of information and experience,
- to improve participation at Community level on the part of disabled people and their organisations.

(5) OJ No C 173, 8.7.1989, p. 1.
(6) COM(90) 588 final.
(7) OJ No C 162, 3.7.1990, p. 2.

In accordance with the Council Decision of 18 April 1988 on the establishment of the HELIOS I action programme, the Commission presented an interim report on 6 December 1990 on the implementation and the results of HELIOS I. The final report will be submitted by 1 July 1992 to the European Parliament, the Council and the Economic and Social Committee.

A report on work undertaken under HELIOS I is set out in Annex 5 (p. 19).

C. PROGRAMME AND GOALS, HELIOS II (1992-96)

1. Preparation of the proposal

This proposal is based on:

- extensive consultation with the persons, circles and authorities directly concerned. Over 100 suggestions (about 250 pages) were received by the Commission, mainly from disabled individuals and organisations for disabled people, scientific specialists and persons working on a professional and voluntary basis on rehabilitation and other local, regional and national activities;

- numerous consultations on intermediate projects discussed at meetings of the Advisory Committee, the Liaison Group, the NGO Dialogue Group and the Group on integration in schools;

- analysis of positive elements emerging from evaluation of activities under earlier programmes.

This broad consultation demonstrated the considerable degree of interest on the part of Member States' representatives, rehabilitation professionals and particularly disabled individuals and organisations representing them, in taking an active part in the definition of joint objectives for the development of an overall strategy for the integration of disabled people.

2. Objectives of HELIOS II

With a view to stimulating a comprehensive, consistent and coordinated policy for the full integration of disabled people, HELIOS II set out to devise common approaches in a wide variety of fields such as prevention and early assistance, functional rehabilitation, integration in the education system, continuing training, vocational guidance and training, employment, new technologies, technical aids and databases, independent living, access to cultural, creative, sports, leisure and tourism activities, family life, the elderly, and the social, economic and legal protection of disabled people.

Compared with HELIOS I, the proposal for HELIOS II has been extended to cover prevention and early assistance, functional rehabilitation, integration in nursery schools and further education, continuing training, and access to creative, sports and tourism activities.

In HELIOS II, the attention devoted to new technologies will be intensified in all fields, particularly in respect of the adaptation of workplaces, and technologies which can help overcome the isolation of disabled people and which further the educational process.

HELIOS II also makes provision for extending the organisation of competitions and the award of prizes in such fields as employment and vocational training, school integration, creative activities, sport and tourism, all in close collaboration with the media.

The activities envisaged for the HELIOS II programme are thus geared to interaction, a common approach and coordination, which are seen as essential for consolidating the benefits of the programme in all directions and achieving the fullest possible integration. Integration is in fact perceived as a whole and may not be regarded as achieved if disabled people are unable to profit from each of its constituent elements. Consequently, integration in the field of education is, especially and simultaneously, the precursor of vocational and economic integration and is a factor in individual fulfilment, construed as the capacity to enter into all forms of activity and areas of social life. HELIOS II will therefore promote a greater joint effort and increased dynamic cooperation between all its participants, and its effects should be enhanced by the back-up provided by other related Community programmes (particularly HORIZON and TIDE).

3. Measures

In addition to the promotion and, where appropriate, establishment of policy guidelines for the Commission at Community level in respect of integration problems faced by disabled people, three interactive aspects will be pursued, intensified and restructured under HELIOS II:

1) Technical cooperation

Implementation of positive measures focusing on the needs of disabled people at local level, through technical cooperation developed by the Community networks and representative European non-governmental organisations, with the aim of exchanging information and sharing innovative and effective experiences among all those involved at European level.

2) **HANDYNET information and documentation**

Joint development of an extended information and documentation system covering every aspect of the coordinated rehabilitation and integration process, for the benefit of disabled people and all those involved in this process.

3) **Consultation**

Establishment of structures.

The proposal is to intensify the action undertaken on behalf of disabled people, emphasising such aspects as prevention, disabled women, carers, elderly disabled people, training those involved and increasing the awareness of the general public and specific target groups. Promoting the integration of disabled people requires action at several levels and cuts across the entire social spectrum. The commitment to tackling the problems of disabled people has been clearly expressed on several occasions and there is no doubt that the Community wishes to continue and consolidate the measures taken.

3.1. Technical cooperation

Three activities are proposed under the heading of technical cooperation:

- networks of **innovative Local Integration and Exchange Activities (A.I.L.E.)**[8] focusing on functional rehabilitation, integration in the fields of education and training, vocational training and employment, and social integration;

- cooperation at several levels with the representative European non-governmental organisations (EURAS)[8], responsible for organising annual **Innovative theme-based Rehabilitation Activities (A.I.R.)**[8] in all areas connected with the integration of disabled people;

- public awareness-raising through a programme of awards given for pilot projects on aspects of employment, independent living, technical aids and access to creativity, tourism and leisure.

(8) The acronyms A.I.L.E., A.I.R. (which are pronounced phonetically [" L"], [" R"]) and EURAS are the same in all the Community languages and are used as singular and plural.

3.1.1. Community networks of innovative Local Integration and Exchange Activities (A.I.L.E.)

The innovative, local nature of specific activities should be retained, albeit changing the names given to the networks in order to extend the scope beyond pilot projects and to emphasise the innovative nature and the final objective of integration in respect of all the projects selected. Members of the Community networks must satisfy strict criteria for participation and must achieve precise, specific results with regard to annual themes submitted to them in liaison with the Member States. The greater effectiveness called for is a consequence of the need to coordinate a consistent, comprehensive Community policy, in which the Commission is assisted by outside experts. The A.I.L.E. Community networks will be required to intensify their cooperation with the HANDYNET system and the European non-governmental organisations (EURAS).

The Community networks are obliged not only to encourage the most effective action but also to transfer the best experiences and practices, taking account of the earliness, overall applicability, continuity and diversity of individual measures. This increased assessment of activities should help to consolidate the spin-offs from HELIOS II for the benefit of disabled people and their relatives.

The programme of activities of these networks comprises study visits, training courses, seminars, conferences and other Europe-wide joint activities, covering the following areas:

- HELIOS II will set up a new Community network dealing specifically with the functional aspects of rehabilitation. The specialised nature and precise remit of this network will give a boost to the full range of medical practices involved in the general integration of disabled people by way of a continuing and consistent rehabilitation process.

- The network dealing with integration in the educational field will continue its work under HELIOS II to bring out the full potential of disabled children and to respond to the expectations of their parents and to the needs of disabled adults. The aim here is to achieve the maximum degree of integration into mainstream educational systems.

  Where HELIOS I concentrated on primary and secondary education, HELIOS II will continue the work and extend it to nursery schools, higher education and continuing training.

- In the field of economic and vocational integration, HELIOS I sought to promote vocational training and facilitate employment in a normal working environment, without however neglecting provisions to ease the transition to the ordinary working environment. HELIOS II will continue this work and extend it to sheltered employment, to which end an awareness campaign will be mounted among workers, firms and employers.

- The network dealing with independent living, which was already in existence at the time of HELIOS I, will be stepped up for HELIOS II to cover the urban environment, housing, accessibility to public buildings, new technologies and domestic aids, all features which are essential to enable disabled people to live as independent a life as possible. Independent living is also one of the main areas for influencing public opinion and certain target groups (local decision-makers or managers, architects, etc.). The scope will be extended to elderly disabled people and to the families of disabled people.

3.1.2. Contribution towards European cooperation with Europe-wide representative non-governmental organizations.

Cooperation with European disabled people is arranged through the intermediary of European non-governmental organisations (EURAS) representing various types of disability or specific integration issues in the Member States.

Such cooperation will be carried out in the context of **Innovative theme-based Rehabilitation Activities (A.I.R.).** These will entail exchanging information, experiences and efficient practices in all the fields relating to the integration of disabled people, i.e. prevention and early assistance, functional rehabilitation, integration in the fields of education and training, vocational training and employment, new technologies, technical aids and data bases, independent living, access to cultural activities, creativity, sports, leisure and tourism, families and the elderly, and social, economic and legal protection. These Innovative Rehabilitation Activities (A.I.R.) reflect the activities undertaken within the A.I.L.E. Community networks and HANDYNET, and are to be carried out by means of conferences, seminars, study visits, training courses and other Europe-wide joint activities, on the basis of annual themes determined by the Commission in liaison with the European non-governmental organisations (EURAS). Setting annual themes will help the NGOs (EURAS) to make better use of their expertise. It is essential to intensify cooperation between them and the Community A.I.L.E. and HANDYNET system networks.

3.1.3. Fostering public awareness

HELIOS II will attach much more importance to raising public awareness and disseminating information on the problems of integrating disabled people, addressing the programme partners and the general public.

To this end, competitions will continue to be organized and prizes awarded in the field of independent living, the scope being extended to include employment, technical aids and access to creativity, tourism and leisure activities. Priority will be given to media activities aimed at increasing the awareness of the general public and specific target groups as to the potential for integrating disabled people.

Arrangements for the dissemination of information under HELIOS I will be intensified at Community level and brought in at national level.

3.2. HANDYNET information and documention system

HANDYNET is a multilingual European computerized information system designed to provide information to disabled people on a variety of matters, including their specific needs.

HANDYNET is a European prototype and is unique by dint of its use of nine languages; it has been developed step-by-step, and became operational in 1990 thanks to the collaborative effort of specialists from all countries.

In HELIOS I, HANDYNET was concerned solely with technical aids for those with a motor, visual or communication disability, plus educational software.

Under HELIOS II, it will be extended to vocational training and employment, accessibility and transport, sports, leisure, tourism and creative activities.

The system can be used in three ways: as a database, an electronic mail system and as an electronic journal.

HANDYNET plays an innovative and precursor role in respect of European networks and multilinguism, and has major social, economic and scientific implications.

At the social level, it enables disabled people to choose, in their own language, what is the most appropriate and least expensive technical aid by comparing the range of products on the market. It also enables politicians, administrators and social workers to acquire the kind of information they need for policy purposes.

In economic terms, the information available in the system serves to break down barriers and make the market more transparent. This should remove barriers between the Member States, improve quality and reduce costs thanks to sharper competition, and the increased play of supply and demand should help the market to develop.

At the scientific level, being able to compare products and their special features will generate a research effort which should help develop the use of new technologies in improving technical aids.

3.2.1. Database

As requested by the Council in its Decision of 18 December 1989, the HANDYNET system became operational in the first half of 1990.

The system hinges on national data collection centres designated by the Member States to constitute a European collection and information network.

The national centres collect information on technical aids available in their particular Member State and forward it in their own language to a central HANDYNET coordinating unit, which then processes the data to make them available in the nine Community languages.

These data relate to technical aids, commercial and non-commercial producers and distributors, and to the rules and regulations in force in the country in question on the acquisition or lease of such aids.

Thanks to the cooperation between the collection centres in the technical coordination group, collection input forms were simplified to make the collection procedure faster. So far (23 September 1991), 13 316 items of information have been collected on technical aids for persons with motor, visual and communication disabilities, together with an inventory of education or rehabilitation software.

Each national data collection centre can thus consult the HANDYNET European database by telephone, although there are a number of drawbacks to this procedure.

To overcome these, it was decided to replace the "on line" system by a much faster and decentralised system (CD-ROM), i.e. a compact disc supplied to each of the national centres and updated at regular intervals.

The HANDYNET system is thus now operational for the collection of data; work is concentrating at the moment on achieving as wide a dissemination as possible of this information by the national and regional information centres.

Training for personnel at these centres in the Member States is provided for under the HORIZON initiative and will call as much as possible on the services of disabled people.

Disabled people's information requirements are not limited just to technical aids; what is needed is the same kind of information on matters essential to a frontier-less Europe, i.e. labour market, accessibility, transport, tourism and sport.

3.2.2. Electronic mail and electronic journal

The structure adopted for the HANDYNET system made it possible to develop a communication and information system linking the members of the network by electronic mail and an electronic journal.

Under HELIOS I, the above facilities were available only to the national data collection centres; under HELIOS II, they will be extended to all programme partners.

3.3 Extended consultation structures

The Advisory Committee which was set up under HELIOS I will be retained for HELIOS II. Alongside this committee, the Commission intends to maintain and enlarge the liaison group and to bring in, along with the government representatives, representatives of the non-governmental organisations and of the social partners.

The dialogue group will also be formalized under HELIOS II. This group comprises only representatives of the representative European non-governmental organisations, the aim being to exchange views on HELIOS II activities.

4. Conclusion

HELIOS II is therefore intended to maintain, promote and intensify the activities undertaken in HELIOS I, which consisted of supporting the efforts being made in the Member States and to increase cooperation and coordination of activities at local, regional, national and Community levels. Consequently, the Commission is proposing to the Council the implementation of a third action programme designated HELIOS II, embracing all types of disability and integration issues, with the aim of making significant advances for the benefit of disabled people, who are constantly confronted with their limitations and find life a permanent struggle. The programme is constructed in such a way as to take account of the wishes of disabled people, their families and others involved, and reflects the recommendations, resolutions, opinions and wishes expressed in particular by the European Parliament and other international and Community organizations and bodies. For the purpose of carrying out this programme, it appears necessary to extend its application over a period of five years, from 1992 to 1996.

D. COMMENTS ON THE ARTICLES OF THE PROPOSAL FOR A DECISION

ARTICLE 1

Article 1 sets out the **aim of the HELIOS II programme**, which extends the scope of the HELIOS I programme, embracing in particular activities connected with prevention, functional rehabilitation and various areas of social integration (sports, leisure, tourism and culture).

Integration in the field of education is now formally and directly included as one of the aims of the HELIOS II programme. In HELIOS I, education was included indirectly, being limited to the primary and secondary sectors. In HELIOS II, it is extended to nursery schools, university and other higher education and continuing training.

HELIOS I looked at vocational and economic integration designed to bring more attention to bear on the transition to employment in a normal environment. HELIOS II will bring in further elements, viz. guidance and assessment, the adaptation of workplaces and work in a sheltered environment.

HELIOS I covered a four-year period, whereas HELIOS II will extend over five years.

ARTICLE 2

Article 2 concerns the **scope** of HELIOS II, with a general definition of disability. In view of the many different categories of disabled people to whom the Community action applies, it has been necessary to amend this Article in relation to the HELIOS I programme, taking into consideration the **classification of the World Health Organization.** This classification, which is now used in an increasing majority of Member States, provides a means of covering all the persons targeted by the Community action, regardless of the origin of the disability: physical (including sensory) and mental (including psychical) or disability resulting from a serious chronic ailment.

ARTICLE 3

Article 3 sets out the various fields of activity under the new programme, going on to set out the aims of work in each of these fields:

a) a comprehensive Community policy,

b) identification of innovative measures,

c) continued development of exchange and information activities at Community level,

d) improved cooperation with the European NGOs.

ARTICLE 4

Article 4 refers to the measures necessary for implementing the HELIOS II programme. These can be broken down into general and specific measures. The first of the general ones concerns technical cooperation within the networks and collaboration with the NGOs. The second measure, HANDYNET, describes the arrangements for the collection and dissemination of information, and for stimulating research. The third measure concerns participation on the part of disabled people and their representative organisations, while the fourth covers cooperation with other international organisations.

The specific measures are explained in detail in the Annex.

ARTICLE 5

Article 5 is unchanged vis-à-vis HELIOS I, and makes the Commission responsible for implementation of HELIOS II.

ARTICLE 6

Article 6 sets up an advisory committee to assist the Commission in implementing the programme and spells out what matters the committee is required to advise on.

ARTICLE 7

Article 7 provides for an interim report to be drawn up by 31 December 1994 and a final report to be produced by 1 July 1997.

The two reports are to be addressed to the European Parliament, the Council and the Economic and Social Committee.

ANNEXES

Annex a : REVIEW OF OTHER COMMUNITY PROGRAMMES, ACTIONS AND INITIATIVES IN FAVOUR OF DISABLED PEOPLE

A. Specific measures for disabled people

1. TIDE initiative

Technology for the socio-economic integration of Disabled and Elderly people.

2. HORIZON initiative - Targeting disabled people

Community initiative geared to improving the conditions of access to the employment market for disabled and disadvantaged persons.

B. Other Community programmes, actions and initiatives focusing on disabled people

1. European Social Fund (ESF)

Disabled people constitute one of the ESF's target groups, with the emphasis on long-term unemployment and young people without jobs.

2. European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)

The ERDF covers activities in the fields of health and training in various regions of the Community, providing effective back-up to the measures undertaken within the context of the HELIOS programme.

3. Human resources, education, training and youth

All of the following programmes give priority to the participation of disabled people:

a) **ERASMUS**: European Community action scheme promoting mobility of university students and cooperation in higher education (1990-94).

b) **LINGUA**: Programme to promote foreign language competence in the European Community (1990-94).

c) **ARION**: Scheme of study visits for education specialists. Community cooperation programme designed to improve the quality of educational systems.

d) **Youth for Europe**: Action programme for the promotion of youth exchanges in the Community (1992-94).

4. Health and safety at work

The framework Directive on the introduction of measures to encourage improvements in the safety and health of workers at work (89/391/EEC of 12 June 1989) imposes a general obligation on employers to protect risk groups (including disabled people) against the dangers which specifically affect them (Article 15).

The individual Directive concerning the minimum safety and health requirements for the workplace (89/654/EEC of 30 November 1989) sets out the requirements regarding adaptation of the workplace and sanitary facilities, accessibility of premises and internal movement.

The proposal for an individual Directive concerning temporary and mobile work sites also contains specific provisions in respect of disabled people.

5. Medical research and health

Medical research and health-related measures must satisfy the wide-ranging needs arising in the context of Community policy in favour of disabled people. Community instruments adopted in 1990 with a view to preventing incapacity and disability have contributed greatly to reducing the causes of incapacity and disability resulting from various diseases or health problems. Additionally, research has been undertaken in medicine and the development of medical technologies.

6. Telecommunications and telematics

a) **COST 219**: Research project aimed at providing solutions to the problems arising from the needs of disabled persons in terms of access to telecommunications and teleinformatics services (1989-91).

b) **RACE**: Research and development in Advanced Communications technology in Europe (1990-94).

Three projects under the RACE programme, focusing directly on disabled people, concern:

- marketable aid services to help the deaf and hard-of-hearing, the visually handicapped, persons with reduced mobility and the elderly,

- a model for adapting multi-media terminals,
- information on the requirements of different categories of disabled people, with a view to introducing suitable, innovative equipment.

c) **AIM**: Advanced Informatics in Medicine. Research and development programme in the field of telematics applied to the health sector (1991-94).

Research work undertaken as part of the AIM programme contains two projects of interest to disabled people, concerning:

- systems and tools designed for remote functional evaluation of disabled people and for the organisation and enhancement of home care,
- equipment and facilities making modern technologies more accessible to disabled people.

d) DRIVE: Dedicated Road Infrastructure for Vehicle Safety in Europe. Community research and development programme in the field of road transport informatics and telecommunications.

The Drive programme sets out to improve road safety through standardization, research, development and evaluation of informatics technologies in respect of road transport (150 000 people a year become permanently disabled as a result of road accidents in the Community).

e) DELTA: Community action in the field of learning technologies - development of European learning through technological advance exploratory action.

Covers the following fields in particular:

- vocational training schemes for disabled people
- computer-assisted teaching
- measures designed to eliminate barriers to communication.

7. Transport

a) Accessibility of means of transport: proposal for a Council Directive on minimum requirements to improve the mobility and the safe transport to work of workers with reduced mobility (adopted on 28 February 1991).

b) Common rules for a denied-boarding compensation system in scheduled air transport (adopted on 8 February 1991): Article 3(4) takes into consideration the interests of passengers who must be given boarding priority for legitimate reasons, such as disabled persons and unaccompanied children (to guard against overbooking).

c) COST 322: Research into the development of a low-floor bus and corresponding adaptations to bus stops.

d) Study on the information and communication requirements of disabled people to enable them to use public transport.

e) European driving licence (Directive of 29 July 1991): Sets out specific provisions to improve access for physically disabled people (particularly those with a sensory disability, epilepsy or diabetes) to a driving licence. More particularly, it features a provision enabling holders of category B licences to drive minibuses or other vehicles of more than 3.5 tonnes "for social purposes".

f) Proposal for a Council Directive on the standards relating to the design of buses and coaches: Sets out special provisions in respect of accessibility, entrance and exit points, height of steps, width of gangways and access doors (December 1990).

8. Reduced VAT rates and import duties

a) Reduced VAT rates: It is planned to retain zero-rating or reduced rates for a transitional period for special appliances designed for disabled people and for their rehabilitation in Member States where such provisions currently apply.

b) Import duties: Exemption of import duties on goods designed to be used by disabled people in certain restricted conditions (Regulation 918/83). A proposed amendment provides for one of the conditions to be done away with, viz. the requirement regarding non-equivalence to Community products. Duty-free import is limited to goods imported free of charge and with no commercial intention on the part of the donor (Directive 82/181/EEC).

9. Leisure

a) Creativity: Creation of a structure for the coordination of creative activities at national and European levels (concerning the European NGO EUCREA and the national NGOs in each of the twelve Member States). Its task is to stimulate and coordinate all creative activities (e.g. painting, music, theatre, dance, etc.) both as therapeutic elements and as a means of self-expression.

b) Sport: Institution (in progress) of a structure for coordinating sporting activities for and by disabled people, with a view to enhancing the consistency of activities at national and European levels.

Establishment of a European data bank containing details of all organisations involved in sporting activities for disabled people (operational on CD by the end of 1991).

c) Tourism: Measures for the creation of a structure to coordinate tourist activities for disabled people at national and European levels.

A special chapter has been devoted to "social tourism", particularly for disabled people, in the Commission's communication on tourism.

10. Consumer policy

The Consumers' Consultative Council undertakes a regular review of Commission initiatives on the specific needs of disabled people.

11. External relations

a) PHARE: Community aid programme for economic restructuring in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe (Regulation 3906/89).

The PHARE programme features projects for Romanian children and, more particularly, the full-scale renovation of 17 centres for disabled children.

b) TEMPUS: Transeuropean mobility programme for higher education (1990-1994, Decision of 7.5.1990).

In the context of the PHARE programme, there are three TEMPUS projects open to disabled people. A project submitted in 1990 concerns training for disabled people, and general consideration has been given to the specific needs of disabled people.

12. Cooperation with developing countries

Within the general context of the European Community's policy on cooperation with the developing countries, one of the main aims is to promote the right of access to appropriate health care services for the maximum number of people in developing countries, with a view to promoting equality and social justice.

A large number of Community projects aimed at the development of national health care systems in the developing countries include activities in favour of disabled people, either in terms of prevention or of physical or social rehabilitation.

Annex b: PROVISIONAL REPORT ON THE HELIOS I ACTION PROGRAMME

1. Political initiatives

Political initiatives have generally been the result of activities undertaken at all levels, more particularly at seminars and conferences attended by disabled people and their representatives and within the networks for the exchange of information and experience.

To take an example from the education field, the conclusions arising from the conference held in Rotterdam (1989) led eventually to the Resolution of 31 May 1990, which in turn generated a greater effort and pragmatic effects from most of the Member States.

In this respect, the following texts are worthy of mention:

- Report on the employment of disabled people in the Community, following the Council Recommendation of 24 July 1986, and the Conclusions of the Council of 12 July 1989.

- Council Decision of 18 December 1989 concerning the continuation of the Handynet system under the HELIOS programme.

- Resolution of the Council and the Ministers of Education of 31 May 1990 concerning the integration of disabled children and young people into mainstream education.

- Interim Report of 6 December 1990 to the European Parliament and the Council on the implementation of the HELIOS I programme.

- Draft Resolution of the Council and the Ministers of Education on school integration concerning relations between parents and teachers.

- Proposal for a Council Directive on minimum requirements to improve the mobility and the safe transport to work of workers with reduced mobility.

2. Technical cooperation

The essential aim of the activities in this field is to promote innovation, facilitate exchanges of experience and encourage the dissemination of useful experience by the following means:

a) more intensive European cooperation on existing activities of a model nature in the Member States;

b) institution of a computerised information database (HANDYNET) in the nine Community languages in fields affecting the lives of disabled people.

c) European networks

Four networks have been set up, their members having been designated by the Member States' governments:

1) 50 vocational training or rehabilitation centres and experiences,

2) 21 local model activities for the integration of disabled children and young people in education,

3) 27 local model activities centring on economic integration,

4) 32 local model activities dealing with social integration (e.g. accessibility, housing, mobility and transport),

making a total of 130 activities spread over the 12 Member States.

These four networks were set up to stimulate the exchange of ideas and trading of useful knowhow and experience among the Member States. This is done largely by way of conferences, seminars, study visits and training schemes.

The conferences bring together members of a network and a number of external parties. Their aim is to ensure a consistent European approach to the development of techniques and to promote one or more specific aspects.

The seminars are devoted to specific themes and bring together members of a network who have a particular interest in that theme.

The conclusions arising from such conferences and seminars are given wide circulation so that each member concerned can circulate the information and derive benefit from it.

This information is used to organise:

- study visits to enable network members to see and study at first hand successful schemes with a view to obtaining new ideas;

- training schemes to enable people to study and learn particularly effective methods or techniques.

The results of all these activities are difficult to quantify as the process of acquiring and refining ideas and concepts is a gradual one.

Nonetheless, it is safe to say that certain Member States with a somewhat less sophisticated social system are keen recipients of such information and derive progressive benefit from the experience of other parties with a view to attaining an equivalent level of development, aided more particularly by the Horizon initiative.

Certain particularly significant activities, arising either from such meetings or entirely spontaneously, have been so successful that they merit further discussion.

As regards the work of the **VOCATIONAL TRAINING AND REHABILITATION CENTRES AND EXPERIENCES**, it is worth mentioning two new activities, the first of which concerns the rehabilitation of people with brain damage, where three centres have been pursuing a collaborative effort and have successfully rehabilitated a number of such people.

The second concerns the vocational rehabilitation of patients with mental health problems, involving centres in Rotterdam and Maastricht (Netherlands), Thessaloniki (Greece), Osnabrueck (Germany) and Edinburgh (Scotland).

Mention should also be made of a number of centres whose work is of a particularly high level:

- Pengwern Hall (Wales) for people with mental handicap, which is devising a training programme covering the full range from basic daily activities up to placement in a normal working environment.

- The vocational training centres in Worms (for physically disabled people) and Bad Vilbel (for physically and mentally disabled people) in Germany, where participants can obtain high qualifications.

- The Sahva vocational school in Copenhagen (Denmark), which combines a flexible training programme with production for the non-sheltered market.

- Queen Alexandra College for the blind in Birmingham (United Kingdom), which has a full-range training programme and services for those with a visual handicap.

- "La Nostra Famiglia" in Bosisio Parini (Italy) for children with various types of disability, where rehabilitation work is to a high level in close cooperation with a scientific institute.

- The vocational centre in Saint-Etienne (France), which has set up a business cooperation model.

- The Cope Foundation for mentally handicapped people (Ireland), which is a good example of a whole range of services from very young children up to the elderly.

As regards **LOCAL MODEL ACTIVITIES IN THE FIELD OF SCHOOL INTEGRATION**, mention should be made of a number of specific LMAs:

- Northumberland (United Kingdom) for the adaptation and equipping of schools with a view to the integration of severely disabled children and young people.

- Swansea (United Kingdom) for the integration of disabled young people in secondary and higher mainstream education.

- Tholen (Netherlands) for a system of cooperation between mainstream and special establishments with a view to limiting recourse to the special system and facilitating access to the mainstream system.

- Valladolid (Spain) for individual integration with the assistance of a multi-disciplinary team.

- Siena (Italy) for research into new technologies, inter-departmental cooperation and production of a well conceived municipal plan.

- Hinnerup (Denmark) for individual integration in all schools and research into new technologies.

As regards **LOCAL MODEL ACTIVITIES IN THE FIELD OF ECONOMIC INTEGRATION**, attention might usefully be drawn to the success achieved by the following LMAs:

- Genk-Hasselt (Belgium) for a special placement service for disabled people, which has achieved a high level of success.

- Silkeborg (Denmark) for an interesting philosophy and a wide-ranging experiment in vocational training in the mainstream system.

- Abensberg (Germany) for a highly effective follow-up system in respect of the employment of mentally handicapped people.

- Tullamore (Ireland) for its structured and effective involvement in the guidance and employment of disabled people.

- Rieti (Italy) for the de-institutionalisation, socialisation and training of mentally ill people by way of a realistic approach to employment on the one hand and a publishing cooperative for physically disabled people on the other, the latter providing training in new technologies.

- Lisbon (Portugal) for a coherent and successful approach to vocational training for deaf people.

- London (United Kingdom) for vocational training and new (technology-based) approaches to placement.

- Murcia (Spain) for its systematic approach to the integration of people with mental handicap.

- Badajoz (Spain) for its management of a placement project for disabled people in semi-sheltered environments.

As regards **LOCAL MODEL ACTIVITIES IN THE FIELD OF SOCIAL INTEGRATION AND INDEPENDENT LIVING**, the following LMAs merit particular attention:

- Val de Marne (France), Esch-sur-Alzette (Luxembourg) and Alava (Spain) for their independent living and vocational schemes for mentally ill people who have spent long periods in an institution.

- Banff (United Kingdom), Nykobing and Falster (Denmark), Vejle (Denmark) and Waterford (Ireland) for a regional de-institutionalisation plan establishing home help bases, vocational training and leisure activities for mentally handicapped and mentally ill people.

- Giugliano (Italy) and Stuttgart (Germany) for the development of psychiatric social services away from institutions, including emergency services, vocational training, employment models and leisure activities.

- Saint-Quentin-en-Yvelines (France) for its social integration scheme based on specially adapted housing, mobility, transport and accessibility.

- Bordeaux (France) for its return-home scheme, technical aids, adapted housing and everyday aids.

- Belluno (Italy) for its scheme to teach independent living, technical aids and accessibility.

- Bologna (Italy) for its inventory of technical aids for physically disabled people and for its monitoring of the environment of people with serious physical disabilities.

- Llanelli (United Kingdom), London (United Kingdom) and Brighton (United Kingdom) for a scheme to involve disabled people in the decision-making process, and a door-to-door transport system.

d) HANDYNET computerized information database

HANDYNET is a multilingual European computerized information system designed to cover the following fields:

- technical aids for motor and visually disabled people, communication and educational software,

- vocational training and employment,

- accessibility and transport,

- sport, leisure , tourism, creative activities, etc.

In accordance with the Council Decision of 18 December 1989, priority has been given to activities designed to complete and make operational the HANDYAIDS module on technical aids for persons with a motor, visual, hearing, mental or communication handicap.

The system comprises three working modes:

1. a data base
2. electronic mail
3. an electronic journal

The HANDYNET system is a European prototype and has been developed step-by-step, becoming operational in 1990, thanks to the collaborative effort of specialists from all countries.

Contracts have been signed with the national data collection centres and checked by the respective governments. They lay down the rights and duties incumbent on all parties to the system, including the Commission. Contracts were signed between June 1990 and February 1991.

The collection process started up progressively with the signatory centres following installation of the workstations and staff training as defined at the system configuration stage.
As a result, all Member States have been in a position to collect the requisite information from the start of 1991.

To begin with, collection was by way of the telephone network, which proved particularly slow and costly. Since then, interfaces have been introduced to facilitate the automatic transposition of data, with the result that 13 316 items of information had been collected by 23 September 1991.

With the help of the national collection centres represented on the liaison group, simplifications were made to the highly complex collection forms and improvements were made to the system itself. Improvements to be made over coming months include using CD-ROM techniques, i.e. compact discs which can be used quickly and easily on a decentralized basis.

Development work is still needed on the information and advice centres designed to provide information to disabled people themselves. This is at the initiative and under the responsibility of the Member States. Technological advances will enable sight and sound to be used in combination so as to make data accessible to all types of disabled people (e.g. voice synthesis, braille, etc.).

3. Cooperation with NGOs

The Commission has already contributed to funding for 163 EC-wide activities organised and run by the European NGOs (EURAS). Priority in HELIOS I was given to cooperation with European NGOs representing particular disability types or integration issues. Such cooperation has been strengthened during the HELIOS Programme and covers the following activities:

- ongoing dialogue,
- advice to the Commission on technical matters following consultation with national organisations,
- participation in the designation of technical criteria for political initiatives,
- dissemination of information on the HELIOS Programme,
- cooperation with other activities in the HELIOS Programme.

Cooperation with the European NGOs is based on annual European action programmes, with the Commission funding conferences, seminars, study trips, training schemes and other such cooperation activities on a European scale. Of the 50 European NGOS, 30 belong to the dialogue group and nine to the HELIOS liaison group.

A number of the subsidised NGO activities have been of a particularly high quality; to mention just a few:

Action Européenne des Handicapées (AEH)

A seminar on the employment of mentally and physically handicapped people was held in Aachen (Germany) in November 1989, the aim being to formulate ways of improving employment opportunities for disabled people on the open labour market.

Confederation of family organisations in the European Community (COFACE)

In Strasbourg in April 1991, COFACE and the Association des Paralysés de France organised a conference on freedom of movement and settlement of disabled people in the Community, the aim being to formulate a resolution on this central theme.

Eurolink - Age

In March 1990, Eurolink Age organised a European seminar in Florence on ageing and disability, the aim being to discuss these two major areas and set up links at European level. The meeting was attended by all twelve Member States; the final report contained a European code of practice regarding disability and the ageing process, and this was taken into account in the policy-making process by the Commission, the European Parliament and the Council of Europe.

International League of Societies for Persons with a Mental Handicap

The ILSMH organised an annual meeting in June 1991, the aims being to formulate a policy on housing for the adult mentally handicapped population in Europe, and to discuss the ethical problems of biomedical research.

International Federation of Disabled Workmen and Civilian Cripples (FIMITIC)

FIMITIC organised a conference on independent living and assistance for disabled people in Denmark in June 1990. The congress ended with the unanimous adoption of a resolution on the fundamental rights of disabled people.

Mobility International

The seminar organised in Milan at the beginning of December 1990 sought to compare the legal situations of disabled people at all stages of their lives.

Rehabilitation International European Communities Association (RI - ECA)

In November 1988, RI - ECA, together with the Spanish Ministry of Social Affairs INSERSO, organised a European seminar in Spain on a comparison of income, benefits and services with a view to harmonisation of social protection provisions in the Community. The final report summarised the outcome in respect of benefits, services and social protection.

European Blind Union (EBU)

A conference was held in Copenhagen in December 1988 on new techniques and new training for blind telephonists. The outcome of the conference was the formulation of an important political position on the part of the Union: positive discrimination, training, ongoing consultation with businesses and development of a European Forum to stimulate contact and the exchange of experience and technical and technological information.

European Community Regional Secretariat of the World Federation of the Deaf - ECRS

At the education conference held in Athens, the "declaration of the ten rights of deaf children" was adopted. The declaration was launched at a HELIOS seminar on school integration in Rotterdam in 1989 and has since acted as a catalyst for subsequent change. A department for the education of deaf people has been set up at Patras University in Greece, and sign language is being introduced in Portuguese schools. The report served as a basis for a number of subsequent conferences (training and employment, deaf students' rights, bilingual education).

European Regional Council of the World Federation for Mental Health (ERC-WFMH)

The first European congress for the families of mentally ill people was organised in Belgium by the Flemish Mental Health Association in conjunction with ERC-WFMH in June 1991. A manifesto was produced on the rights of mentally ill people and their families.

Creative activities, sport and tourism

During the life of the HELIOS I programme (1988-1991), there was a rapid growth in the number of organisations working in the field of sport and creative activities for disabled people.

At the same time, creativity and sport are becoming increasingly important aspects in fostering the integration of disabled people through the exchange of ideas and experience between the Member States.

The international organisation EUCREA, which is concerned with creative activities for and by disabled people and was set up at the initiative of the Commission of the European Communities, has its roots in national committees in all the twelve Member States. EUCREA's aim is to stimulate and coordinate creative activities at national and European levels. During the life of HELIOS I, some 350 creativity projects were assessed, 127 of which eventually received financial support from the Commission. These projects cover all forms of artistic expression and all types of disability. Funds have been made available for the organisation of conferences, seminars and exhibitions on the creativity theme and to help develop facilities for disabled people, ranging from music and the theatre, through painting and literature, to audiovisual productions. Grants have been made available to support the work of disabled artists and others active in the creativity field.

As regards sport, contacts with an increasing number of organisations representing disabled people have brought out the need for a coordination structure at both national and Community levels. The Commission is giving its backing to this initiative with a view to the rationalisation of sporting events.

During the period 1988-91, some 50 projects concerning a variety of sporting activities and various types of disability received funding from the Commission.

In the tourism field, the British Tourist Board, in conjunction with the Commission, organised a European conference in March 1991 on "Tourism for all". This was targeted at the tourism industry and looked more particularly into ways of providing a more effective service for disabled people and the social services and organisations representing them. The participants stressed the fact that training for architects should bear in mind the needs of all tourists, whether able-bodied or disabled. Mention was also made of the need to arrive at a situation where travel agencies would systematically consult organisations or specialists dealing with disabled people.

4. Public awareness activities

Great importance is attached to public awareness, whereby the aim must be to bring about a change in the mentality and attitude of a large part of the population. In this respect, cooperation with the media is becoming more and more important. An agreement on audiovisual coverage of major events has been concluded with a television company. A HELIOS information stand is present at a wide variety of fairs and exhibitions to enable information to be circulated directly to disabled people and professionals.

Each year, the Commission organises competitions and awards prizes in the field of independent living for disabled people (e.g. accessibility, transport and housing). 29 such awards were made at the European conferences in Brussels in 1989 and in Brighton in 1991 for such work as:

- production of an adaptable item of equipment for wheelchairs to enable them to clear static or mobile obstacles and avoid collisions with pedestrians; being adapted to their daily needs, such equipment can enable severely disabled people to move about without danger to themselves or to others (Belgium);

- infra-red transmitters at strategic places in areas used by the public (e.g. stations and post offices) providing instructions or information for blind people (Germany);

- adaptation of public transport (e.g. buses and underground trains) in the city of Bilbao (Spain) for all types of disability (e.g. lift platforms, ramps, information in braille and in the spoken word);

- training in care and independent living for mentally handicapped adolescents in a centre providing all the requisite equipment and non-institutional activities (Italy);

- renovation and adaptation of housing in an area close to the centre of Edinburgh (Scotland), drawing on the experience of disabled people and facilitating independent and community living and social integration.

Mention should also be made of work done at London's Heathrow Airport, adaptation of a sailing boat for the needs of disabled people, grants for disabled artists and accessibility to a wide range of European museums and art galleries.

5. Studies

The following studies were conducted under the HELIOS I programme, providing an essential basis for the formulation of new policies and more particularly for new political initiatives:

- copyright for mentally handicapped artists
- sheltered workshops in Europe
- disabled women
- disabled people and new technologies
- vocational and leisure activities for persons with a mental or other very severe handicap and for those with multiple handicaps
- mobility and transport for disabled people
- the employment situation for disabled people
- statistics on the situation of disabled people
- survey of national rehabilitation centres
- survey on the situation of deaf people in the European Community
- comparison of Member States' social security systems with a view to harmonisation for disabled people.

6. Consultation structures

As regards the consultation structures instituted under the HELIOS programme, the aims are to make activities as transparent as possible and to involve disabled people directly in the decision-making process. These structures take the form of:

- an advisory committee comprising two government representatives per Member States;
- a liaison group comprising government representatives from the advisory committee, nine representatives of European non-governmental organisations and workers' and employers' organisations;

- working parties on school integration, employment for disabled people, mobility and transport, comprising government experts to assist the Commission in the various integration fields;

- a dialogue group currently comprising some 30 NGOs selected on the basis of their representativity in a particular field at European or international level;

- various technical working groups made up of experts, such as the HANDYNET technical coordination group.

Proposal for a

COUNCIL DECISION

establishing a third Community action programme to assist disabled people (HELIOS II (1992-96))

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community, and in particular Articles 128 and 235 thereof,

Having regard to Council Decision 63/266/EEC of 2 April 1963 laying down general principles for implementing a common vocational training policy[1], and in particular the tenth principle thereof,

Having regard to the Commission proposal[2],

Having regard to the opinion of the European Parliament[3],

Having regard to the opinion of the Economic and Social Committee[4],

Whereas the completion of the single market, with its social dimension and the changes resulting therefrom, a rapidly developing technical environment and the context of more complex labour markets make it necessary to adopt suitable measures to assist disabled people;

Whereas the Conclusions of the Council and of the Ministers of Education meeting within the Council of 14 May 1987 concerning a programme of European collaboration on the integration of handicapped children into ordinary schools[5] and the Resolution of the Council and of the Ministers of Education meeting within the Council of 31 May 1990[6] affirm the need to remove material barriers, to use flexible education methods to meet individual needs and to facilitate the transitions to education, to working life and to adult life, to establish as active a policy of cooperation as possible with specialized institutions, to make use of the various possibilities offered by new technologies with regard to education and to foster links between the family, the community, social and health services and the world of work;

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1 OJ No 63, 20.4.1963, p. 1338/63.
2 OJ No C
3 OJ No C
4 OJ No C
5 OJ No C 211, 8.8.1987, p. 1.
6 OJ No C 162, 3.7.1990, p. 2.

Whereas the HANDYNET system, through the availability of the technical aids module, assists in improving conditions for the integration of the disabled and in making the institutions, professions and associations involved in the process of integrating the disabled aware of applied research in the field of technical assistance; whereas the HANDYNET system thus plays a fundamental role with regard to the aims of this programme;

Whereas the present programme is designed to complement action taken at national, regional and local levels, in particular by ensuring an exchange of experience and information relating to these actions;

Whereas, as provided for under item 26 of Title I of the Community Charter of Fundamental Social Rights for Workers[7], all disabled persons, whatever the origin and nature of their disablement, must be entitled to additional concrete measures aimed at improving their social and professional integration; whereas these measures must concern, in particular, according to the capacities of the beneficiaries, vocational training, ergonomics, accessibility, mobility, means of transport and housing;

Whereas the Communication from the Commission concerning its action programme[8] relating to the implementation of the Community Charter of Basic Social Rights for Workers emphasizes that the implementation in the Member States of measures to develop and further a coherent overall policy to promote occupational and social integration and an independent way of life for the disabled, both at national and Community level, is an important element of the social dimension of the single market, to be completed in 1992; whereas a European integration policy for the disabled should be pursued and furthered in order to provide greater equality of opportunity for disabled people, who form one of the most disadvantaged sections of the population;

Whereas, because this Decision is concerned on the one hand with principles for implementing a vocational training policy and one promoting employment and on the other with measures, including those to promote functional rehabilitation, integration into schools, social integration and an independent way of life for the disabled, which need to be adopted in order to attain one of the objectives of the Community, and the Treaty has not provided the necessary specific powers, it is necessary to invoke both Article 128 and Article 235 of the Treaty;

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7 COM(89) 471 final.
8 COM(89) 568 final, pp. 53-54.

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1

A Community action programme to promote educational, occupational, economic and social integration and an independent way of life for disabled people (HELIOS II programme), hereinafter called "HELIOS II", is hereby established for the period 1 January 1992 to 31 December 1996.

Article 2

For the purposes of HELIOS II, "disabled people" means people with serious impairments, disabilities or handicaps resulting from physical (including sensory) or mental (including psychical) impairments and restricting or making impossible the performance of an activity or function considered normal for a human being.

Article 3

The objectives of HELIOS II shall be as follows in respect of functional rehabilitation, integration into education, vocational training, occupational rehabilitation, economic and social integration and an independent way of life for disabled people:

a) to promote the development of a comprehensive Community integration policy based on the best innovative and effective experience and practice in the Member States;

b) to identify those innovative approaches and measures to be promoted in order to improve the convergence and coordination of actions carried out under point a);

c) to continue to develop exchange and information activities which can make a useful contribution as referred to in a) and to ensure that they are given as wide a circulation as possible;

d) to strengthen cooperation with the Europe-wide non-governmental organizations.

Article 4

1. The general measures designed to attain the objectives referred to in Article 3 shall be as follows:

a) to coordinate, undertake and encourage activities based on precise annual topics, with the intention of promoting innovation, facilitating exchanges of experience and encouraging the dissemination of successful experiences and the transfer of effective practices. These activities shall closely involve disabled people, their families, representative organizations, experts, researchers, professionals working in the field, voluntary helpers and the two sides of industry.

b) to meet the information needs of disabled people by pursuing, within the context of the computerized information and documentation system HANDYNET, on the basis of national data, the collection, adaptation at European level, updating, exchange and dissemination of information gathered in the Member States by the national collection and information centres.

The HANDYNET system is also intended to stimulate research into and production of technical aids through establishing an inventory of applied research undertaken in this area.

c) to promote the participation of disabled people in existing Community programmes, in particular in the areas of training and preparation for working life, new technologies, vocational training and employment, of equal treatment of women, the learning of languages, and mobility of and exchanges by young people within the Community;

d) to ensure close coordination with activities undertaken by inter-governmental organizations, and cooperation with other activities at international level in the areas referred to in Article 3.

2. The specific measures designed to attain the objectives set out in Article 3 are listed in the Annex.

Article 5

The Commission shall ensure the implementation of HELIOS II.

Article 6

1. The Commission shall be assisted by a Committee of an advisory nature, hereinafter called the "Committee", composed of two government representatives from each Member State and chaired by the representative of the Commission.

2. The opinion of the Committee shall be requested:
- for the constitution and for the definition of the selection criteria of the Innovative Local Integration and Exchange Activities (A.I.L.E.);
- for the establishment of the list of annual themes to be dealt with in the course of conferences, seminars and study visits organized within the framework of these networks;
- on any measure of a general or specific nature to be undertaken within the framework of the application of Article 4.

3. The representative of the Commission shall submit to the Committee a draft of the measures to be taken. The Committee shall deliver its opinion on the draft, within a time limit which the chairman may lay down according to the urgency of the matter, if necessary by taking a vote.

The opinion shall be recorded in the minutes; in addition, each Member State shall have the right to ask to have its position recorded in the minutes.

The Commission shall take the utmost account of the opinion delivered by the Committee. It shall inform the Committee of the manner in which its opinion has been taken into account.

Article 7

1. Before 31 December 1994 the Commission shall submit an interim summary report to the European Parliament, the Council and the Economic and Social Committee on the implementation of HELIOS II.

2. Before 1 July 1997 the Commission shall submit a full report to the European Parliament, the Council and the Economic and Social Committee on the implementation and results of HELIOS II.

Done at Brussels,

For the Council
The President

ANNEX

SPECIFIC MEASURES TO ATTAIN THE OBJECTIVES REFERRED TO IN ARTICLE 3 OF THE DECISION

1. GENERAL REMARKS

These specific measures will be undertaken by the Commission in consultation with the Member States, associations of disabled people and of their families, the two sides of industry and professional and voluntary bodies involved in the integration of disabled people.

The conditions and procedures for participation by network partners, the HANDYNET system and European non-governmental organisations are set out below.

Special attention will be given to the role of new technologies in the integration of disabled people. The pedagogical and practical potential of new technologies can be a useful tool in the development of teaching aids, the adaptation of workplaces, means of communication and mobility and as a way of ending the isolation of disabled people.

2. COMMUNITY NETWORKS FOR INNOVATIVE LOCAL INTEGRATION AND EXCHANGE ACTIVITIES (A.I.L.E.)*

2.1 General conditions and procedures for participation by the A.I.L.E.

2.1.1. The members of each network must in each Member State represent innovative institutions of high standing and with a high technical level, recognised in the integration sector and giving evidence of interest and experience in this field.

The A.I.L.E. will be designated as members of a network by the Commission on the basis of proposals from the Member States and may be replaced.

Those A.I.L.E. which are candidates for membership of a network must undertake to attain clearly defined objectives linked to specific and innovative topics.

* The acronym A.I.L.E. (with the phonetic pronounciation " L") remains unchanged in all Community languages and is both singular and plural.

Each A.I.L.E. will draw up an annual programme of activities with a Community dimension, together with a provisional timetable. Each A.I.L.E. will undertake to cooperate at Community level and to supply information obtained to the other network partners and to partners in the external network.

A network's activity programme will consist of study visits, training courses, seminars, conferences and other European-scale cooperative activities and will be established on the basis of annual topics.

Positive actions, studies and cooperation with European non-governmental organisations (EURAS) and Member States will be carried out in cooperation with the activities of each Community network.

Working parties grouping together A.I.L.E., and given responsibility for implementing various topics relating to the integration process, may be set up. An assessment group will be set up.

The A.I.L.E. will be called upon to cooperate closely with the relevant representatives of local, regional or national authorities, European non-governmental organisations and organisations and associations representing disabled people, their families and professional and voluntary helpers.

2.1.2. Rate of Community financial contribution: up to 50% for conferences (in cooperation with national authorities) and up to 100% for seminars, working party activities, study visits, training courses and publication of a magazine.

2.2 Specific activities

2.2.1. Community network for INNOVATIVE LOCAL INTEGRATION AND EXCHANGE ACTIVITIES in the field of functional rehabilitation (A.I.L.E. I)

Creation of a network of INNOVATIVE LOCAL INTEGRATION AND EXCHANGE ACTIVITIES consisting of medical rehabilitation centres (A.I.L.E. I) set up on the basis of clearly defined criteria. The task of this network will be to facilitate exchanges of information and experience with regard to the principles and criteria for complete and coherent functional rehabilitation (early timing, completeness, continuity and multi-disciplinary nature of individual operations).

The A.I.L.E. will be represented at network meetings by full-time professionals in the field of rehabilitation.

2.2.2. Community network of INNOVATIVE LOCAL INTEGRATION AND EXCHANGE ACTIVITIES in the field of education (A.I.L.E. II).

Creation of a network of INNOVATIVE LOCAL INTEGRATION AND EXCHANGE ACTIVITIES in the field of education (A.I.L.E. II) based on specific criteria which are to be drawn up. The task of this network will be to facilitate exchanges of information and experience in nursery, primary, secondary, university and para-university education and in continuing training.

This network will pursue, on the basis of annual programmes, the implementation of the European cooperation programme for the integration of handicapped children into ordinary schools (87/C22/01) and of the Resolution (90/C162/02) concerning the implementation of the integration of children and young people with disabilities into ordinary systems of education.

2.2.3. Community network of INNOVATIVE LOCAL INTEGRATION AND EXCHANGE ACTIVITIES in the field of vocational training and employment (A.I.L.E. III)

Amalgamation of the network of vocational training and rehabilitation centres and of the network of Local Model Activities in the field of economic integration (LMA II) from the first HELIOS programme in a new network comprising INNOVATIVE LOCAL INTEGRATION AND EXCHANGE ACTIVITIES in the field of vocational training and employment (A.I.L.E. III), on the basis of clearly defined criteria. The task of this network will be to facilitate exchanges of information and experience with regard to the principles and criteria governing vocational training and employment, particularly with regard to topics such as guidance and assessment, training innovations, employment, sheltered employment (in particular sheltered workshops), the transition to employment in an ordinary environment, the adaptation of workplaces and evaluation of employment capability.

This network will continue to implement Recommendation 86/379/EEC and Conclusion 89/0173/01 on the employment of disabled people in the Community and will contribute to the application of the Community Charter of Fundamental Social Rights of Workers.

The Commission will promote a "European code of good practice" on integration into the labour market, drawn up in cooperation with the Member States.

2.2.4. Community network of INNOVATIVE LOCAL INTEGRATION AND EXCHANGE ACTIVITIES in the social field (A.I.L.E. IV)

Transformation of the network of Local Model Activities in the field of social integration (LMA III) from the first HELIOS programme into the network of INNOVATIVE LOCAL INTEGRATION AND EXCHANGE ACTIVITIES in the social field (A.I.L.E. IV), on the basis of clearly defined criteria. The task of this network will be to facilitate exchanges of information and experience and to encourage as independent a way of life as possible and a full social life, with particular regard to the rights of disabled people, their participation in normal life, access to accommodation, public buildings and transport and the removal of architectural and psychological obstacles and those hindering communication.

Exchanges of experience in the following fields: accessibility of public buildings (including cultural and leisure facilities), adaptation of private accommodation (including equipment and home help to permit an independent way of life in one's own accommodation) and provision of facilities to assist the mobility and transport of disabled people.

3. COMPUTERIZED INFORMATION AND DOCUMENTATION SYSTEM (HANDYNET)

3.1 General conditions and procedures for participation by national collection and coordination centres and by national information and advice centres.

National collection and coordination centres will have as their task the transmission to a central point of data collected at national level concerning the various fields of integration and, depending on the circumstances, commercial or non-commercial organisations having a link with technical aids and concerning the regulations in force in respective Member States.

The task of the national information and advice centres will be to inform and advise both disabled people and their professional helpers about the social and economic integration process on the basis of data made available at Community level.

3.2 Specific activities

Continued development of the technical aids module, collection of information relating to products and to commercial and non-commercial organisations associated with these products and an inventory of regulations concerning these products.

Extension of the HANDYNET system through the creation of new modules dealing with employment and training, sport, creativity, tourism and other leisure activities, a research bibliography, documentation, a multilingual thesaurus and statistics.

Carrying out positive and forward-looking activities to encourage the adaptation of new technologies to the needs of disabled people, and to encourage research.

Rate of Community financial contribution: up to 100% (to cover the European dimension of the system).

4. COOPERATION WITH NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS

4.1. General conditions and procedures for cooperation with the Commission.

4.1.1. The Commission will strengthen its cooperation with the non-governmental organisations (NGOs), primarily with those which are representative at European level.

4.1.2 The European NGOs (EURAS)* will participate at various levels on the basis of respect for the criteria of representativeness within the Community, as follows:

- at the first level, the EURAS will be represented in the twelve Member States, have some competence in dealing with each type of disability or be specialized in dealing with the main problems of integrating disabled people;

- at the second level, the EURAS will represent a specific disability or integration issue in more than one Member State. They will be invited to join forces and be represented at Liaison Group level by an NGO representing their type of disability or their integration issue.

  The Commission will invite the EURAS taking part in the programme within the Liaison and/or Dialogue Groups to establish a National Committee in each Member State, grouping together the various national associations representing a type of disability or an integration issue.

* The acronym EURAS remains the same in all Community languages and is both singular and plural.

4.2 Specific activities

To draw up, each year, a programme of activities eligible for financial support from the Commission and to give a balanced opinion on the priority rating of these activities.

To organise Innovative Rehabilitation Activities (A.I.R.)* in all fields concerned with the integration of disabled people, such as prevention and early assistance, functional rehabilitation, integration into schools and training, vocational rehabilitation, vocational training and employment, new technologies, independent living, access to cultural activities, creativity, sports, leisure and tourism, the families of disabled people, the elderly disabled and social, economic and legal protection. These Innovative Rehabilitation Activities (A.I.R.) will be carried out by means of conferences, seminars, study visits, training courses and other European-level cooperative activities on the basis of annual topics.

To provide information for national associations in the Member States and other European NGOs in their respective sector of activity on actions undertaken at Community level.

To advise the Commission, at its request, on the technical aspects associated with the type of disability or the specific integration issue being dealt with.

To submit an annual report on activities carried out which have a European dimension.

The Commission will contribute to the expenses arising from the provision of coordination and expertise for first-level European non-governmental organisations (EURAS).

Rate of Community financial contribution: up to 50% for meetings of the National Committees of the EURAS, conferences, seminars, study visits, training courses and other European-level cooperative activities, and up to 100% for expenses arising from the provision of coordination and expertise for first-level non-governmental organisations (EURAS).

* The acronym A.I.R. (with the phonetic pronounciation " R") remains unchanged in all Community languages and is both singular and plural.

5. INFORMATION AND AWARENESS-RAISING CAMPAIGNS AIMED AT PUBLIC OPINION

Wide circulation of information to publicise activities and campaigns to make public opinion and the media aware of the problems of integrating disabled people.

The Commission will contribute to raising the awareness of public opinion through the organisation of competitions, the presentation of annual prizes for pilot projects in the various fields relating to the integration of disabled people, and through media activities.

The pilot projects rewarded with a prize will be presented at a conference/exhibition.

The Commission will lend its support to the annual organisation at national level of information meetings for all participants in HELIOS II.

Rate of Community financial contribution: up to 100%.

6. SPECIAL TRAINING MEASURES

The Commission will organise training schemes in the Community for national and Community civil servants and for representatives of the networks and of organisations representing disabled people.

7. SPECIAL THEMES

In implementing the specific measures detailed above, the participants in HELIOS II will devote special attention to:

- prevention and early assistance, with a view to preventing the appearance or development of an impairment, incapacity or disability,

- difficulties encountered by the families of disabled people, disabled women and elderly disabled people,

- the economic and social integration of disabled women,

- training for professionals and volunteers involved at the various stages of the integration process,

- persons with special responsibilities in respect of disabled children, adolescents and adults.

8. PROGRAMMES, ACTIVITIES AND INITIATIVES CONCERNED DIRECTLY WITH DISABLED PEOPLE

Special steps will be taken to create a synergetic effect in the field of vocational rehabilitation and employment with the HORIZON initiative and, in respect of new technologies, with the TIDE initiative.

9. STUDIES AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Studies, consultancy services and technical assistance required for the drawing up of proposals or for providing technical support in the fields referred to in Article 3.

Rate of Community financial contribution: up to 100%.

10. ADDITIONAL SPECIFIC ACTION WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE ACTIVITIES REFERRED TO IN ITEMS 2 - 5

Cooperation with outside experts responsible for assisting the Commission in coordinating, guiding and evaluating the activities referred to in items 2 - 5.

Rate of Community financial contribution: up to 100%.

HELIOS II PROGRAMME (1992-1996)

FINANCIAL STATEMENT
PART 1: FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

1. **Title of the operation**
   Community action for disabled people - HELIOS II programme

2. **Budget headings concerned**
   B3-4102 B8-3502 B3-1000

3. **Legal basis**
   The third action programme known as HELIOS II (1992-1996) sets out to develop a comprehensive and consistent policy at Community level in favour of the disabled, building on the experience gained under the previous programme (cf. Council Decision 231/88/EEC).

4. **Description**
   - Organisation of four innovative Local Integration and Exchange Activities networks (AILE) in conjunction with the Member States, covering functional rehabilitation, school and university integration, employment and vocational training, and the promotion of independent living.
   - Subsidies for external activities involving non-governmental organisations in cooperation, coordination and consultancy exercises at European level.
   - Operational development of the HANDYNET computerised information system, covering the "technical aids" module and extending the scope to other modules (research bibliography, employment-training, creativity, sports and tourism); European dimension of the system.
   - Organisation of special training measures in the Community for national and Community civil servants and for representatives of the networks and of the non-governmental organisations.
   - Public awareness-raising work by way of a programme of annual awards for model projects in a variety of fields and specific activities in conjunction with the audio-visual media. Increased dissemination of information.
   - Studies and other technical assistance measures, particularly with a view to preparing, monitoring and evaluating political initiatives.
   - Coordination, organisation and evaluation of the above activities by outside experts.

5. Classification of expenditure or revenue

5.1 NCE

5.2 DA for B3-4102
NDA for B8-3502 B3-1000

5.3 Types of revenue: none

6. Nature of expenditure or revenue

- 100% expenditure (for activities connected with contracts for the provision of services).
- Subsidies for joint financing with other public and/or private sector sources.
- Study and consultancy contracts.
- Seminar, documentation, publication and secretariat expenditure.
- Travelling and subsistence expenditure and salaries for special training measures.

7. Financial impact on intervention appropriations (Part B of the budget)

7.1 Indicate the way in which the total cost has been calculated (cf. Annexes 1-2)

(1992-1996): 47.3 MECU
46.3 MECU : B3-4102 B8-3502 (mini-budget)
1 MECU : B3-1000

Total cost in 1992 : 8.55 MECU
6.707 MECU : B3-4102
1.693 MECU : B8-3502 (mini-budget)
0.150 MECU : B3-1000

a) Innovative local integration and exchange activities (AILE) networks in conjunction with the Member States
2.1 MECU

b) Public opinion awareness-raising
0.5 MECU

c) HANDYNET system
1.9 MECU

d) Cooperation with non-governmental organisations
3.15 MECU

e) Training measures
0.3 MECU

f) Studies and technical assistance
0.6 MECU

An increase of + 8% is earmarked for 1992 and an annual increase of 5% for the period 1993-1996 for budget heading B3-4102 (and of 0.015 MECU for 1992 and 0.025 MECU per year for the period 1993-1996 for B3-1000).

1) The highest percentage increase is for 1992, which is the lead year for the implementation of the new programme.

   More particularly, it is planned to implement gradually the activities of the four AILE networks and of the HANDYNET system. Financial aid for cooperation with the NGOs will be slightly reduced over 1991 (leaving out subsidies in 1991 for the new German Länder) so as not to create too wide a gap between aid applications and the inadequate budget resources. The budget available for dissemination of information at national level will be greatly increased, as will the money for new special training measures.

   Total increase for 1992: 0.515 MECU (+ 8%)
   Increase by activity sectors:

I. AILE networks

Rate of inflation	+ 82 000 ECU	+ 4%
Gradual implementation of activities	- 32 000 ECU	- 1.6%
TOTAL:	+ 50 000 ECU	+ 2.4%

II. HANDYNET:

Rate of inflation	+ 74 000 ECU	+ 4%
Multilingual thesaurus, documentation, implementation	- 24 000 ECU	- 1.3%
TOTAL:	+ 50 000 ECU	+ 2.7 %

III. Cooperation with the EURAS (AIR)

Rate of inflation:	+ 140 800 ECU	+ 4%
Lower level of cooperation on the basis of annual themes (taking account of the new Länder in 1992)	- 510 800 ECU	-14.5%
TOTAL:	- 370 000 ECU	-10.5%

IV. Public awareness activities and dissemination of information

Rate of inflation:	+	15 200 ECU	+ 4%
Dissemination of information:	+	104 800 ECU	+28%
TOTAL:	+	120 000 ECU	+32%

V. Special training measures

Training measures	+	200 000 ECU
Preparation and evaluation conferences	+	100 000 ECU
TOTAL:	+	300 000 ECU

VI. Other activities	+	365 000 ECU	+55.3%
TOTAL:	+	515 000 ECU	+ 8%

2) Between 1993 and 1996, the annual increase (reduced in percentage terms to 5%) will enable the HANDYNET system to be extended to include the employment and training, sport, creativity and tourism modules and to take in a research bibliography. It will also make it possible to set up and extend external information networks with the AILEs and the funding of projects run in cooperation with the NGOs. Finally, special attention will be devoted to evaluation exercises concerning specific objectives and performance indicators.

Total increase : + 5 % (average percentage increase per year)

7.2 Indicate the proportion of the "mini-budget" in the total cost. Give details of how the calculation was made.

- personnel	1 456 000 ECU
- publications/information	-
- infrastructure:	-
- direct	40 000 ECU
- share	157 000 ECU
- other	40 000 ECU

8. What anti-fraud provisions are included in the proposal?
Account and invoice audit.

PART 2 : ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENDITURE

1. Staff needed to carry out the programme:

DG V	Present	Additional staff requested
	3 A	1 A
	2 B	1 B
	2 C	1 C
	1 national expert on secondment	

These additional posts will have to come from resource programming for the year in question or by internal redeployment.

2. Administrative appropriations required

p.m.
- meetings of the HELIOS Advisory Committee for the social and economic integration of handicapped persons, HELIOS tripartite Liaison Group
(A 2510)
- meetings of the HELIOS working parties on school integration, employment, mobility and transport, HANDYNET-HELIOS technical coordination, evaluation and the HELIOS dialogue group.
(A 2500)

PART 3 : COST-EFFECTIVENESS ANALYSIS

1. Aims and consistency with the financial planning

The HELIOS II action programme covers a period of five years (1992-1996). The total amount of 47.3 MECU, including 46.3 MECU on B3-4102 and B8-3502, accords with the financial planning for the period.

2. Justification of the measure

The 30 million disabled people (making up 10% of the population) constitute one of the most disadvantaged population groups in the Community. Within the economic context, and with the work situation becoming more and more competitive with the advent of the Single Market, not to mention the pace of technical change, the Community needs to take more and lasting measures to help the disabled.

3. Monitoring and evaluation arrangements

The Advisory Committee and the HELIOS Liaison Group, comprising representatives of the Member State governments, the non-governmental organisations and the two sides of industry, meet in principle three times a year to monitor and evaluate the progress of the HELIOS II programme. An evaluation working party will be set up in agreement with the Liaison Group. An evaluation report will be drawn up by an external organisation on completion of the HELIOS II programme.

4. Public awareness-raising work with a programme of annual awards for model projects in a variety of fields and specific activities in conjunction with the audio-visual media. Dissemination of information at national level.

5. Organisation of special training measures in the Community for national and Community civil servants and for representatives of the non-governmental organisations and the networks.

1. <u>Timetable</u>

1) 1992 will be the pivotal year for HELIOS II. Implementation of the AILE network activities on the basis of annual themes, extension of the HANDYNET system and intensified cooperation with the NGOs on the basis of priority annual themes will start in earnest at the beginning of 1993. From 1992 on, special training measures will be organised for civil servants and representatives of the networks and of the NGOs.

2) Period 1993-1996:

- AILE network: the number of conferences and seminars will be increased by from 1993. The number of study trips and training courses will also increase. External networks will be set up from the beginning of 1993.

- Extension of the HANDYNET system
  Creation of the employment/training module: beginning of 1993
  Creation of the sport (beginning of 1992), creativity and tourism module: beginning of 1993
- Creation of the research bibliography: beginning of 1994
- Creation of the multilingual thesaurus: beginning of 1992
- Statistics: from the beginning of 1993

- Cooperation with the NGOs on the basis of annual themes.
  Development of the procedure for granting subsidies on the basis of priority annual themes: from 1993.

2. Justification:

There are something like 30 million handicapped people in the Community, representing 10% of the population and constituting one of the most disadvantaged population groups. Within the economic context, and with the work situation becoming more and more competitive with the advent of the Single Market, not to mention the pace of technical change, the Community needs to take more and lasting measures to help the disabled.

The performance indicators are as follows:

- The AILE networks:
  The activities of the four AILE networks concern the exchange of information and experience between model projects of an innovative nature and are organised on the basis of priority annual themes. The specific objective is for each AILE to take an active part during the programme in preparing study trips, training courses, seminars and the annual conference on a priority annual theme, and for all the AILEs to take part each year in at least one annual conference. It is also planned to invite at least each external network partner to an AILE network activity during the programme.

- HANDYNET:
  The specific objective is to enable each disabled person or his or her organisation in the Community to have access during the programme to the HANDYNET system to obtain information free of charge in one of the official languages on all types of technical aids available on the European market.

  The plan is also to set up an operational data base accessible to handicapped people on employment and training, sport, creativity and tourism and a research bibliography.

- Cooperation with the NGOs: It was thought appropriate to increase the budget for cooperation with the European NGOs in view of the substantial rise in the number of activities and initiatives of an innovative nature at Community level in the various HELIOS programme priority fields. The specific objective is to promote, on the basis of AIR annual themes, external cooperation activities in each major handicap type or integration problem sector.

- Special training measures: The specific objective is for civil servants and representatives of the EURAS and of the networks to be enabled to take part each year in a special training measure, i.e. a 4-6 week experience placement in a different Member State.

3. Monitoring and evaluation arrangements

The Advisory Committee and the HELIOS Liaison Group, comprising representatives of the Member State governments, the non-governmental organisations and the two sides of industry, meet in principle three times a year to monitor and evaluate the progress of the HELIOS II programme. Moreover, a dialogue group comprising representatives of the non-gouvernemental organisations meet in principle twice a year. An evaluation working party will be set up, and an evaluation report will be produced by an external organisation on completion of the HELIOS II programme.

The evaluation working party will be asked to take an annual look at the progress made on the specific objectives and at the performance indicators as mentioned under point 2 "Justification".

B3-4102

Likely schedule of payments as compared with commitments:

APPROPRIATIONS		PAYMENTS					
		1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
1. Commitments contracted prior to 1991 for payment from new payment appropriations		2.5	0.563	0.2	0.137	–	–
2. Commitment appropriations deferred(1) from 1990	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
3. 1991 appropriations	6.207	3.507	2.4	0.3	–	–	–
4. 1992 appropriations	6.695	–	5.5	1.0	0.163	–	–
TOTAL		6.007	8.463	7.8	6.9	7.359	7.907
5. 1993 appropriations	7.059	–	–	6.3	0.6	0.159	–
6. 1994 appropriations	7.407	–	–	–	6.0	1.0	0.407
7. 1995 appropriations	7.777	–	–	–	–	6.2	1.0
8. 1996 appropriations	8.175	–	–	–	–	–	6.5

(1) Or reconstituted, for payment from new payment appropriations

B8-3502		CA	1.693	1.837	1.9	2	2.1	2.2
		PA	1.693	1.837	1.9	2	2.1	2.2
B3-1000		CA	0.135	0.150	0.175	0.2	0.225	0.25
		PA	0.135	0.150	0.175	0.2	0.225	0.25
TOTAL B3-4102 B8-3502 B3-1000	Commitment appropriations		8.035	8.682	9.134	9.607	10.102	10.625
	Payment appropriations		7.835	10.45	9.875	9.1	9.684	10.357

ANNEX 2

PROGRESSION OF THE HELIOS II PROGRAMME AND OF THE HANDYNET SYSTEM, 1992-1996

		1991 (for information)	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	TOTAL 1992-1996
I -	Local integration and exchange activities networks (A.I.L.E)	2 050 000	2 100 000	2 213 000	2 331 000	2 454 000	2 584 000	11 682 000
II -	Public opinion awareness-raising	380 000	532 000	559 000	587 000	616 000	648 000	2 942 000
III -	HANDYNET system	1 850 000	1 900 000	1 995 000	2 095 000	2 200 000	2 310 000	10 500 000
IV -	Cooperation with the NGOs on innovative rehabilitation actions (A.I.R)	3 520 000	3 150 000	3 317 000	3 491 000	3 674 000	3 866 000	17 498 000
V -	Special training measures		400 000	420 000	441 000	463 000	488 000	2 212 000
VI -	Studies and technical assistance	235 000	600 000	630 000	662 000	695 000	729 000	3 316 000
		8 035 000	8 682 000	9 134 000	9 607 000	10 102 000	10 625 000	48 150 000
of which								
.	Chapter B3-4102 B8-3502 mini-budget	7 500 000	8 532 000	8 959 000	9 407 000	9 877 000	10 375 000	47 150 000
.	Chapter B3-1000	135 000	150 000	175 000	200 000	225 000	250 000	1 000 000
	Chapter B3-4102 (New German Länder)	400 000						

SME IMPACT STATEMENT
TITLE OF THE PROPOSAL:

Draft Community action programme for disabled people HELIOS II, 1992-96

Reference number of document: V/1196/91

The proposal:

1. The aim of the HELIOS Community action programme is to promote integration in the field of the education, occupational and economic integration and the independent lifestyle of handicapped people, more particularly by the following activities:

- To coordinate, undertake and stimulate exchanges of experience and information at Community level.

- To pursue, in the framework of the HANDYNET computerized information and documentation system, the collection, updating, exchange and dissemination of information assembled in the Member States on technical aids for the disabled.
  The HANDYNET system will be extended to cover training, employment, tourism and leisure pursuits.

- Cooperation with the European non-governmental organizations (EURAS).

As regards the subsidiarity principle, the HELIOS programme is limited to measures of a European dimension, more particularly exchanges of experience and information, and the development of collection and information software at Community level in the nine Community languages.

Impact on business:

2. Who will be affected by the proposal?
   The HELIOS II programme has no direct effect on the various business sectors. However, the HANDYNET system, which aims to make the European market for technical aids more transparent, will have an effect on the technical aids sector, which is currently dominated in all the Member States by a few national undertakings.

- The technical aids for the handicapped sector is mainly made up of small and medium-sized businesses.

- Most of the firms in the technical aids sector are to be found in the north of the Community.

3. Undertakings will have to take no particular measures to comply with the proposal.

4. What economic effects is the proposal likely to have?

- The action programme sets out to promote employment prospects for the handicapped by developing a general Community policy based on best experience and practices in the Member States in the field of economic integration, training and occupational rehabilitation.

- No direct effects on investment, the creation of new businesses or the competitive position of businesses.

5. The proposal contains no specific measures for small and medium-sized businesses.

6. Consultation:

The government representatives, the non-governmental organizations representing the handicapped and the two sides of industry represented on the HELIOS Liaison Group have been consulted on the proposal.

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