COUNCIL REGULATION (EC) No 1651/2003

of 18 June 2003

amending Regulation (EEC) No 302/93 on the establishment of a European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community, and in particular Article 308 thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the Commission [1],

Having regard to the opinion of the European Parliament [2],

Having regard to the opinion of the Court of Auditors [3],

Whereas:

(1) Certain provisions of Council Regulation (EEC) No 302/93 of 8 February 1993 on the establishment of a European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction [4] should be brought into line with Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002 of 25 June 2002 on the Financial Regulation applicable to the general budget of the European Communities (hereinafter referred to as 'the general Financial Regulation') [5], and in particular Article 185 thereof.

(2) The general principles and limits governing right of access to documents provided for in Article 255 of the Treaty have been laid down by Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 May 2001 regarding public access to European Parliament, Council and Commission documents [6].

(3) When Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001 was adopted, the three institutions agreed in a joint declaration that the agencies and similar bodies should implement rules conforming to those of that Regulation.

(4) Appropriate provisions should therefore be included in Regulation (EEC) No 302/93 to make Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001 applicable to the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction, together with a provision on appeals against a refusal of access to documents.

(5) Regulation (EEC) No 302/93 should therefore be amended accordingly,

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

Article 1

Regulation (EEC) No 302/93 is hereby amended as follows:

1. The following Article shall be inserted:

'*Article 6a*

Access to documents

1. Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 May 2001 regarding public access to European Parliament, Council and Commission documents (*) shall apply to documents held by the Centre.

2. The Management Board shall adopt the arrangements for implementing Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001 within six months of entry into force of Council Regulation (EC) No 1651/2003 of 18 June 2003 amending Regulation (EEC) No 302/93 on the establishment of a European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drugs Addiction (**).

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

(*) OJ L 145, 31.5.2001, p. 43.
(**) OJ L 245, 29.9.2003, p. 30.'

2. Article 8(5) shall be replaced by the following:

'5. The Management Board shall adopt the annual report on the Centre's activities and forward it by 15 June at the latest to the European Parliament, the Council, the Commission, the Court of Auditors and the Member States.

6. The Centre shall forward annually to the budgetary authority any information relevant to the outcome of the evaluation procedures.'

[1] OJ C 331 E, 31.12.2002, p. 71.
[2] Opinion delivered on 27.3.2003 (not yet published in the Official Journal).
[3] OJ C 285, 21.11.2002, p. 4.
[4] OJ L 36, 12.2.1993, p. 1. Regulation last amended by Council Regulation (EC) No 2220/2000 (OJ L 253, 7.10.2000, p. 1).
[5] OJ L 248, 16.9.2002, p. 1 with Corrigendum in OJ L 25, 30.1.2003, p. 43.
[6] OJ L 145, 31.5.2001, p. 43.