


Procedure file

Basic information	
COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic) 1995/2216(COS)	Procedure completed
Competition policy: strengthening international cooperation and rules	
Subject 5.03 Global economy and globalisation 6.20.01 Agreements and relations in the context of the World Trade Organization (WTO)	

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	RELA External Economic Relations		19/12/1995
		PPE KITTELMANN Peter	
	Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
	ECON Economic and Monetary Affairs, Industrial Policy		26/09/1995
		PSE KATIFORIS Giorgos	
Council of the European Union			

Key events			
12/07/1995	Non-legislative basic document published	COM(1995)0359	Summary
18/09/1995	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
10/10/1996	Vote in committee		Summary
10/10/1996	Committee report tabled for plenary	A4-0321/1996	
13/11/1996	Debate in Parliament		
14/11/1996	Decision by Parliament	T4-0598/1996	Summary
14/11/1996	End of procedure in Parliament		
02/12/1996	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	1995/2216(COS)
Procedure type	COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic)
Procedure subtype	Commission strategy paper
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 142

Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	RELA/4/06927

Documentation gateway					
Non-legislative basic document		COM(1995)0359	12/07/1995	EC	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A4-0321/1996 OJ C 347 18.11.1996, p. 0006	10/10/1996	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T4-0598/1996 OJ C 362 02.12.1996, p. 0225-0243	14/11/1996	EP	Summary

Competition policy: strengthening international cooperation and rules

OBJECTIVE: the Commission communication presents the recommendations of the group of experts on strengthening international cooperation and the application of competition policy rules. **CONTENT:** the recent success of the Uruguay Round negotiations and the gradual lifting of state obstacles to world trade which should result from them highlight the need to put an end restrictive practices which hamper trade between the main economic zones of the world, meaning that defining international competition rules and implementing a mechanism for controlling the application of these rules are once again on the agenda. The Commission has therefore set up group of experts to discuss these prospects and help define them at Community level on the basis of the Community's experience in integrating the internal market. In short, the group has issued the following recommendations: - given that it is in their interest to prevent restrictive trade practices, countries or regional groupings need to be encouraged to introduce a suitable set of competition rules and ensure that these rules are applied efficiently. If need be, technical assistance should be provided to developing countries which so request; - the modular approach proposed by the group is a two-pronged approach which aims to: 1) extend bilateral agreements (to include the possibility of confidential data exchange and improve use of the "positive courtesy" mechanism). A "second generation" agreement between the United States and the Community is a priority in this respect. Such an agreement would create the framework for even closer cooperation between the two partners' competition authorities. Negotiating a bilateral agreement with Japan is another step which needs to be taken; 2) create a multilateral framework (to include the elements already laid down in bilateral agreements plus a set of minimum rules, a binding "positive courtesy" mechanism and an efficient mechanism for settling differences). This would initially be limited to the core disciplines and countries (e.g. the Member States of the EU, the OECD, CEECs, Korea, Hong Kong, Singapore, Taiwan), but the domino effect would gradually extend the geographical scope of this multilateral agreement, together with the standards contained in it and the degree of supervision exercised. The group takes the view that, as the two initiatives are complementary and mutually reinforcing, these recommendations can be implemented in parallel.?

Competition policy: strengthening international cooperation and rules

Adopting the report by Mr KITTELMANN, the Committee on External Economic Relations called for the early opening of negotiations, in the run up to the Singapore Conference (December 1996), on the introduction, within the framework of the World Trade Organization, of minimum competition rules in the multilateral world trade system. The absence of such rules, or the inability to ensure that they are respected, was a major obstacle to cross-border economic activity. The committee emphasized in the proposal for a resolution attached to the report that the World Trade Organization (WTO) was the international body best qualified to draw up and negotiate international competition rules. Such rules should be based on principles of non-discrimination and transparency and should relate to areas such as abuse of a dominant position, restrictive practice agreements between firms (cartels) and merger control. International competition rules would also allow antidumping measures to be adopted and the relevant national authorities to exchange confidential information. The committee considered that the adoption of competition rules and a code of conduct at EU level would form a useful basis on which to adopt international competition rules. Finally, the committee also called for an international competition authority to be established within the WTO.?

Competition policy: strengthening international cooperation and rules

In adopting the report by Mr Peter KITTELMANN (PPE, D), Parliament called for the early opening of negotiations, in the run up to the Singapore Conference (December 1996), within the framework of the World Trade Organization, with the aim of introducing minimum competition rules in the multilateral world trade system. Parliament considered that the WTO is the most suitable international body to draw up and negotiate international competition rules. Such rules should be based on the principles of non-discrimination and transparency and should relate to the following areas: abuse of a dominant position, anticompetitive agreements between firms (cartels) and merger control. Parliament also called for an international competition authority to be established as part of the WTO. ?