

Procedure file

Basic information		
COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic)	1996/2019(COS)	Procedure completed
Fight against fraud: working programme 1996		
Subject 8.70.04 Protecting financial interests of the EU against fraud		

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	CONT Budgetary Control		26/04/1996
		PSE WEMHEUER Rosemarie	
	Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
	JURI Legal Affairs, Citizens' Rights		
	LIBE Civil Liberties and Internal Affairs		
Council of the European Union	Council configuration	Meeting	Date
	Economic and Financial Affairs ECOFIN	1942	08/07/1996
	Economic and Financial Affairs ECOFIN	1906	11/03/1996
	Economic and Financial Affairs ECOFIN	1887	27/11/1995

Key events			
27/11/1995	Debate in Council	1887	
31/01/1996	Non-legislative basic document published	COM(1996)0017	Summary
28/02/1996	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
11/03/1996	Resolution/conclusions adopted by Council		
24/07/1996	Vote in committee		Summary
24/07/1996	Committee report tabled for plenary	A4-0257/1996	
19/09/1996	Debate in Parliament		
19/09/1996	Decision by Parliament	T4-0487/1996	Summary
19/09/1996	End of procedure in Parliament		
28/10/1996	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	1996/2019(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	CONT/4/07580

Documentation gateway					
Document attached to the procedure		N4-0129/1996	30/01/1996	CSL	
Non-legislative basic document		COM(1996)0017	31/01/1996	EC	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A4-0257/1996 OJ C 277 23.09.1996, p. 0005	24/07/1996	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T4-0487/1996 OJ C 320 28.10.1996, p. 0136-0211	19/09/1996	EP	Summary

Fight against fraud: working programme 1996

OBJECTIVE: submission by the Commission of a detailed programme of specific anti-fraud activities for 1996, the purpose of which is to clarify further the guidelines contained in the general programme by means of a series of selected activities. **SUBSTANCE:** the activities are grouped around four main headings which the Commission developed in presenting its anti-fraud strategy in 1994, namely: - stronger presence on the ground and further support for operational activities, concentrating on risk sectors; - stronger partnership between the Commission and the Member States, development of information networks and better use of intelligence; - improvement of Community legislation in the various areas of activity; - securing greater compatibility between the legislations of the Member States. A number of guidelines require further information to be obtained so as to enable the Commission to carry out a more detailed study (for example, prevention, the question of out-of-court settlements, results following inspections and follow-up action in fraud cases, etc.). In this context the Commission is directing its work towards clarifying further the mechanisms likely to ensure an equivalent level of protection of financial interest throughout the Community. The impact of this work on anti-fraud policy will be measurable after 1996. ?

Fight against fraud: working programme 1996

The budgetary control committee unanimously adopted a report by Mrs Rosemarie WEMHEUER on Commission proposals aimed at improving the fight against fraud on the EU's budget through better management and analyses of how the EU spends its money. The report argues that a more readable programme with a clearer and more understandable structure would make it easier to monitor progress. The changes proposed include: -simultaneous presentation of the work programme and the Commission's annual report; -publication, in an annex to the report, of the main Council decisions and the background documents used by the Commission departments concerned, along with instructions on how to combat fraud; -systematic analysis of the causes of fraud. Two problems areas are the complexity of regulations and monitoring their application. It is also necessary to establish whether the use of subsidies and refunds in high risk areas fulfil their goal or could be replaced by other more efficient means, less susceptible to fraud. The committee was impressed by the quality of the report for 1995, and felt that this reflected the greater effectiveness of the Commission's campaign against fraud. ?

Fight against fraud: working programme 1996

Parliament adopted the report by Mrs Rosemarie WEMHEUER (PSE, D) containing a series of proposals aimed at giving greater transparency to the Commission's successes and failures in its measures to combat fraud detrimental to the Community budget. By making the Annual Report more readable, clearly structured and comprehensible, a better evaluation of the results obtained should be possible. The proposed changes include: - the establishment of a chronological link between the Work Programme and the Annual Report; - the publication, in an annex to the Report, of important Council decisions and basic Commission documents with instructions on how to combat fraud; - a systematic analysis of the causes of fraud: it is important to determine whether, in the high-risk areas, the instruments used (subsidies, refunds, etc.) fulfil their real purpose or whether they should be replaced by other instruments which are more efficient and less open to fraud. ?