




Procedure file

Basic information		
COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic)	1996/2032(COS)	Procedure completed
European community on water policy		
Subject 3.70.04 Water control and management, pollution of waterways, water pollution		

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	 Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection		09/01/1996
		PPE FLORENZ Karl-Heinz	
	Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
Council of the European Union	 Agriculture and Rural Development		16/04/1996
		EDN DES PLACES Edouard C.M.P.	

Key events			
21/02/1996	Non-legislative basic document published	COM(1996)0059	Summary
11/03/1996	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
26/09/1996	Vote in committee		Summary
26/09/1996	Committee report tabled for plenary	A4-0290/1996	
22/10/1996	Debate in Parliament		
23/10/1996	Decision by Parliament	T4-0522/1996	Summary
23/10/1996	End of procedure in Parliament		
18/11/1996	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	1996/2032(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	ENVI/4/07635

Documentation gateway

Non-legislative basic document		COM(1996)0059	21/02/1996	EC	Summary
Committee of the Regions: opinion		CDR0186/1996 OJ C 034 03.02.1997, p. 0030	18/09/1996	CofR	
Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report		CES1069/1996 OJ C 030 30.01.1997, p. 0005	25/09/1996	ESC	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A4-0290/1996 OJ C 347 18.11.1996, p. 0004	26/09/1996	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T4-0522/1996 OJ C 347 18.11.1996, p. 0052-0080	23/10/1996	EP	Summary

European community on water policy

OBJECTIVE: to define an overall strategy for a more consistent, more transparent and more effective Community water policy. SUBSTANCE: at the heart of the strategy proposed by the Commission in its communication is the outline of a framework directive on water resources which will lay down the basic principles of water management in the EU Member States, namely: - the establishment and the monitoring of quality objectives and water management programmes designed to achieve these objectives; - transparency of the procedures for the establishment and implementation of the programmes and extensive involvement of the general public in these procedures and programmes; - the maintenance of a high level of environmental protection and more effective environmental protection measures. The directive will also require: - the integration of water resource management with the protection of the natural ecological state and action of the aquatic environment; - the integration of water quality and water quantity management (including provisions for the establishment, where necessary, of a water abstraction licensing scheme); - the integration of surface water management (including coastal waters) with ground water management; - the integration of measures, such as emission controls, with environmental objectives. The framework directive would also require integrated water management planning on a river basin basis. Lastly, it would set up a committee responsible for the management and updating of the directive. ?

European community on water policy

The Committee warmly welcomes the Commission's move to conduct a thorough review of Community water policy focusing on protection of water quality and quantity. The Committee agrees that a framework Directive is needed to round off and update existing legislation. However, the Committee considers that the Communication does not give sufficient thought to certain key aspects of a sustainable water policy, such as: - the need for a new approach to water use, re-use and saving which, while taking due account of particular regional conditions. and - the need for greater consideration of water policy in agriculture, and of groundwater and coastal waters' management; - the fact that, when drawing up integrated water management plans on a river-basin basis, taking in account must be taken of international agreements and the existence of different types of river basin within the Community; - the need to establish EU regulatory measures in order to reduce the risk of accidental pollution of water-supply catchment areas; The Committee reserves the right to issue a separate Opinion on the future framework Directive in due course. ?

European community on water policy

The European Commission's water policy came under heavy fire from Mr Karl-Heinz FLORENZ , whose report on the Commission's communication on water policy in the EU was adopted by the Environment Committee. Expressing his strong disapproval of the Commission's present position, Mr FLORENZ urged it to produce an overall plan for water policy. He insisted that a water action programme and a framework directive be adopted under Article 130s (3) of the EC Treaty. Mr FLORENZ felt that the Commission had spectacularly failed to develop a coherent global approach towards an EU water policy. The general thrust of its stance boded ill for future water protection policy. ?

European community on water policy

In adopting the report by Mr Karl-Heinz FLORENZ (PPE, D), Parliament expressed its disagreement with the Commission's current position. It called for a global approach in which the priority objectives and measures for a European water policy are laid down on the basis of a systematically defined relationship between emission standards and quality objectives, to be adopted by the Council and Parliament in a framework directive. By amalgamating Community provisions such as definitions, lists of industries and lists of substances, reporting

obligations and monitoring procedures, this framework directive should considerably reduce and simplify the multitude of existing directives on water. The impact of the framework water directive in respect of the level of environmental protection and the competition situation should be examined by the Commission. ?