


# Procedure file

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

| Key players                   |  |   |            |
|-------------------------------|--|---|------------|
| European Parliament           | Committee responsible  | Rapporteur                                    | Appointed  |
|                               | <b>ENVI</b> Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection | PPE <a href="#">FLORENZ Karl-Heinz</a>        | 09/01/1996 |
|                               | Committee for opinion  | Rapporteur for opinion                        | Appointed  |
|                               | <b>AGRI</b> Agriculture and Rural Development                  | EDN <a href="#">DES PLACES Edouard C.M.P.</a> | 16/04/1996 |
| Council of the European Union |  |   |            |

| 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        | <a href="#">A4-0290/1996</a>  |         |
| 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                   |  | <a href="#">CDR0186/1996</a><br><a href="#">OJ C 034 03.02.1997, p. 0030</a> | 18/09/1996 | CofR |         |
| Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report      |  | <a href="#">CES1069/1996</a><br><a href="#">OJ C 030 30.01.1997, p. 0005</a> | 25/09/1996 | ESC  | Summary |
| Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading |  | <a href="#">A4-0290/1996</a><br><a href="#">OJ C 347 18.11.1996, p. 0004</a> | 26/09/1996 | EP   |         |
| Text adopted by Parliament, single reading          |  | T4-0522/1996<br><a href="#">OJ C 347 18.11.1996, p. 0052-0080</a>            | 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. ?