


Procedure file

Basic information		
COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic)	1996/2016(COS)	Procedure completed
Racism, xenophobia and anti-semitism		
Subject 7.30.08 Action to combat racism and xenophobia		

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	LIBE Civil Liberties and Internal Affairs		13/02/1996
		PPE OOSTLANDER Arie M.	
	Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
	BUDG Budgets		11/03/1996
		ELDR GREDLER Martina	
Council of the European Union	JURI Legal Affairs, Citizens' Rights		19/03/1996
		PSE ODDY Christine Margaret	

Key events			
13/12/1995	Non-legislative basic document published	COM(1995)0653	
29/02/1996	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
25/04/1996	Vote in committee		Summary
25/04/1996	Committee report tabled for plenary	A4-0135/1996	
09/05/1996	Debate in Parliament		
09/05/1996	Decision by Parliament	T4-0221/1996	Summary
09/05/1996	End of procedure in Parliament		
27/05/1996	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	1996/2016(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	LIBE/4/07664

Documentation gateway

Non-legislative basic document		COM(1995)0653	13/12/1995	EC	
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A4-0135/1996 OJ C 152 27.05.1996, p. 0004	25/04/1996	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T4-0221/1996 OJ C 152 27.05.1996, p. 0014-0057	09/05/1996	EP	Summary

Racism, xenophobia and anti-semitism

The draft report adopted by the Committee on Civil Liberties expressed a positive appreciation of the Commission's communication on racism, xenophobia and anti-Semitism. It welcomed the proposal for a Council decision declaring 1997 "European Year against Racism", with certain amendments. - highlighting the role that journalists can play in the fight against racism and xenophobia, by supporting the idea of establishing a "media prize" in this area. The report naturally considered that designating 1997 as European Year against Racism was an excellent example of what could be done in this field. However, the rapporteur proposed 28 amendments to the proposal for a decision, which were aimed mainly at clarifying the goals to be met through the actions taken within the framework of the European Year against Racism. In this respect the following actions were planned: to promote equal opportunities for more vulnerable groups and individuals, to help promote understanding and recognition of other civilisations and their contribution to the culture of European countries, to encourage social, cultural and religious organisations to play their part in fighting racism, to promote links which integrate migrants into European culture, to support training and educational projects which raise awareness of racism and xenophobia, etc. The rapporteur also wanted to see a representative of the Council of Europe on the consultative committee assisting the Commission in the development of activities as part of the European Year against Racism. The meetings held by this committee should be open to the public. Finally, the report called for Community measures in this area to be coordinated with the activities being developed by the Council of Europe. ?

Racism, xenophobia and anti-semitism

Adopting the report by Mr Arie OOSTLANDER (PPE, NL), the European Parliament approved the Commission communication as a comprehensive response to the problems of racism and xenophobia. The report endorsed the establishment of a European monitoring centre for racism and xenophobia, as proposed in the final report of the Consultative Commission on Racism and Xenophobia for the Cannes European Council and hoped that this monitoring centre would work closely with the Council of Europe and draw up concrete policies which could be pursued by local authorities, national government and the Union. It also proposed that the Community institutions place great importance on the protection of minorities, particularly in countries applying for membership of the EU, while stressing the importance of coordinating activities in this field with the Council of Europe. In addition, the European Parliament: - called on politicians and opinion-formers to refrain from exploiting xenophobic instincts and to condemn all forms of intolerance and racist statements in their actions and policies; - reiterated the part that civil society has to play in combatting racism and supported the Commission's proposal to set up a social policy forum, while stressing the importance of dialogue between the Commission and representatives of the main religious faiths in Europe so as to develop an anti-discriminatory policy in fields such as health care, education, etc. and lay down anti-discriminatory rules valid throughout the Union; - supported the Commission's idea of including a general anti-discrimination provision in the Treaties and giving the Community specific powers to combat racism; - stressed the importance of cross-border judicial cooperation, particularly as regards publications, racist demonstrations and the information highway; - called for a ban on denial of the Holocaust to be included in the legislation of all Member States; - supported the idea of allowing third country nationals who have the right to reside in a Member State of the European Union the possibility of acquiring citizenship of that country; - supported the Commission proposal to abolish checks at internal frontiers and allow the free movement of third country nationals; - called on the Commission to investigate the specific problems facing the 3 to 4 million persons resident illegally in the EU; - called for special measures to assist particular groups, such as migrants and gypsies; - recognized the role of education in combating racist and xenophobic attitudes, while calling for measures to improve education concerning the historical significance of the Second World War and greater recognition of the role of religious and philosophical education in developing people's consciences. The report also called for the training of civil servants with regard to racism and xenophobia; - appreciated the role which journalists are able to play in combating racism and xenophobia and supported the idea of a media prize in this sector. ?