

Procedure file

Basic information		
COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic)	1996/2090(COS)	Procedure completed
Simpler legislation for the internal market SLIM: a pilot project		
Subject 2 Internal market, single market		

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	JURI Legal Affairs, Citizens' Rights		23/07/1996
		UPE CROWLEY Brian	
	Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
	ECON Economic and Monetary Affairs, Industrial Policy		09/09/1996
		PSE MURPHY Simon Francis	
	ENVI Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
Council of the European Union	Council configuration	Meeting	Date
	Competitiveness (Internal Market, Industry, Research and Space) 1993		13/03/1997
	Competitiveness (Internal Market, Industry, Research and Space) 1970		26/11/1996
	Economic and Financial Affairs ECOFIN 1942		08/07/1996
	Competitiveness (Internal Market, Industry, Research and Space) 1929		28/05/1996

Key events			
08/05/1996	Non-legislative basic document published	COM(1996)0204	Summary
28/05/1996	Debate in Council	1929	Summary
08/07/1996	Resolution/conclusions adopted by Council		Summary
04/09/1996	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
26/11/1996	Debate in Council	1970	
13/03/1997	Debate in Council	1993	Summary
19/03/1997	Vote in committee		Summary
19/03/1997	Committee report tabled for plenary	A4-0108/1997	

08/04/1997	Debate in Parliament		
10/04/1997	Decision by Parliament	T4-0167/1997	Summary
10/04/1997	End of procedure in Parliament		
28/04/1997	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	1996/2090(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	JURI/4/07869

Documentation gateway

Non-legislative basic document	COM(1996)0204	08/05/1996	EC	Summary
Document attached to the procedure	COM(1996)0559	06/11/1996	EC	
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading	A4-0108/1997 OJ C 132 28.04.1997, p. 0006	19/03/1997	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading	T4-0167/1997 OJ C 132 28.04.1997, p. 0128-0213	10/04/1997	EP	Summary
Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report	CES0457/1997 OJ C 206 07.07.1997, p. 0014	23/04/1997	ESC	Summary

Simpler legislation for the internal market SLIM: a pilot project

OBJECTIVE: to launch a pilot project designed to explore ways of reducing the restrictions which the rules of the single market impose on undertakings in certain sectors. **CONTENT:** the pilot project seeks to present between now and November 1996 specific suggestions as regards the means to simplify legislation in four sectors: - Intrastat, the system for collecting statistics on intra-Community trade; - technical provisions applicable to construction products; - legislation relating to the mutual recognition of diplomas; - legislation relating to ornamental plants. This attempt at simplification is designed to improve the competitiveness of undertakings and their job-creating potential, by ensuring that excessive rules at Community or national level do not prevent effective participation in the single market, and to increase the efficiency of legislation concerning the mutual recognition of diplomas. The project will act as a test for a wider-ranging campaign. As far as methodology is concerned, the work will be carried out by four small teams, each devoted to the examination of one of the chosen areas. These "SLIM" teams will consist of representatives of the Commission, Member States and users of the legislation.?

Simpler legislation for the internal market SLIM: a pilot project

Subject to a general UK reservation linked to the current BSE crisis, the Council noted general support for the text of a draft resolution. The resolution is intended to give a political impetus to the whole process of legislative and administrative simplification at Community and national level. The draft envisages the launching of a pilot scheme to explore ways to lessen burdens on trade in certain sectors of the Single Market. ?

Simpler legislation for the internal market SLIM: a pilot project

The Council adopted a resolution proposing simpler legislative and administrative arrangements for the internal market. As far as future legislative initiatives were concerned the Council took note of the general guidelines that the Commission had drawn up in order to direct its powers of initiative with a view to improving the quality of the new legislative proposals, given their impact on the economic and professional environment. It also underlined the importance of ensuring that the new legislation was effectively transposed at national level, while at the same time stressing that highly detailed stipulations should be avoided, apart from where these were strictly needed in order to ensure the

smooth functioning of the internal market. As far as the current legislation was concerned, the Council wanted to see the codification and simplification measures strengthened by concrete actions. One of these actions should initially consist of launching a 'pilot project' in a limited number of sectors - permanent system for collecting statistics, ornamental plants, construction projects, mutual recognition of diplomas - with a view to reducing restrictions and relaxing the formalities imposed on undertakings by way of the said legislation. Regarding the initiatives to be taken, the Council called on the Member States a) to promote a culture of simplification and relaxation of administrative formalities when it came to national legislation, taking into account the special problems faced by SMEs; b) to support the work of those groups charged with carrying out the 'pilot project'; c) to undertake an exchange of information on actions to be taken towards simplification, which would take place within the consultative committee for coordination in the area of the internal market, as instituted by Decision 93/72/EEC. The Commission was called on: a) to keep Member States regularly informed about the progress of the work on the 'pilot project'; b) to present to the Council, by November 1996, a report detailing the conclusions of the pilot project; c) to indicate, as soon as possible in 1997, how this project could be extended to other sectors.

Simpler legislation for the internal market SLIM: a pilot project

Concerning the areas to be covered by the next SLIM phase, Mr MONTI reported that expert groups will be set up in April to make recommendations, within six months, on certain aspects of the Community VAT regime, financial services (starting with banking), and the combined nomenclature for external trade. A fourth area still remained to be defined ; this would cover legislation regarding a specific sector relating to goods. The President summed up the discussions as follows : - the "Internal Market" Council confirms its earlier conclusions about the importance of SLIM ; it backs a vigorous pursuit of this exercise ; - in order to keep the momentum, recommendations made during the first phase must be swiftly implemented and areas selected for SLIM 2, taking into account, as much as possible, the priorities indicated by Member States ; - the SLIM project must be pursued in a transparent manner ; - the Council notes the Commission's emphasis on the need to accompany SLIM, by parallel simplification efforts at national level. The Council will resume this discussions at its session on 20 May 1997.?

Simpler legislation for the internal market SLIM: a pilot project

The SLIM pilot project concentrates on a few areas of Community legislation where full efforts should be made towards simplification. The Committee approved the report by Brian CROWLEY (UPE, Irl) on simpler legislation for the internal market. The pilot project was launched in May 1996. It covers four areas in which there is a profusion of Community legislation: INSTRASTAT (the system for selecting statistics on intra-Community trade), technical regulations on construction products, legislation on mutual recognition of diplomas, and legislation relating to ornamental plants. The Committee generally supported SLIM with some reservations. It was hoped that the *acquis communautaire* would not be undermined. The Member States were also asked to make efforts to support the SLIM initiative. The committee wants SLIM to be extended to other areas: These would include freedom of movement and social security for migrant workers; financial services; the public procurement sector; and the marketing of dangerous substances.?

Simpler legislation for the internal market SLIM: a pilot project

When it adopted the report by Mr Brian CROWLEY (UPE, IRL), the European Parliament supported the SLIM project provided that it did not undermine the Community patrimony and that it did not result in a lowering of the highest levels of worker protection in force in the Member States. It also called for the competent people to participate in the working parties, in particular representatives of the users of directives such as SMUs, consumers, employers and trade unions. The Member States, too, were urged to make efforts along the lines of the SLIM initiative. Parliament also called for SLIM to be extended in a second phase to other sectors having a direct impact on businesses and citizens of the Union: intermediation and distribution of financial services; public procurement sector; the directive on marketing of dangerous substances. Parliament asked to be closely involved in the second phase of the project. ?

Simpler legislation for the internal market SLIM: a pilot project

The Committee welcomes the SLIM initiative and thinks that it is a long wanted need that has now been identified and implemented. Member States should in parallel with the Community simplify their legislation at all levels (national and local) especially that which results from the transposition of Community legislation. The Commission should take a vigorous and active approach to auditing transposition and enforcement of EC legislation at national level in order to avoid, in particular, that national legislation or practices hamper the unity of the Community market.?