

Procedure file

Basic information

COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic)	1996/2091(COS)	Procedure completed
Construction products: Application of the directive 89/106/EEC		
Subject 3.40.07 Building industry		

Key players

European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	ECON Economic and Monetary Affairs, Industrial Policy	PPE LANGEN Werner	17/12/1996
Council of the European Union			

Key events

15/05/1996	Non-legislative basic document published	COM(1996)0202	Summary
09/12/1996	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
04/11/1997	Vote in committee		Summary
04/11/1997	Committee report tabled for plenary	A4-0350/1997	
19/11/1997	Debate in Parliament		
20/11/1997	Decision by Parliament	T4-0585/1997	Summary
20/11/1997	End of procedure in Parliament		
08/12/1997	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	1996/2091(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	ECON/4/07892

Documentation gateway

Non-legislative basic document		COM(1996)0202	15/05/1996	EC	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A4-0350/1997 OJ C 371 08.12.1997, p. 0003	04/11/1997	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T4-0585/1997 OJ C 371 08.12.1997, p. 0172-0219	20/11/1997	EP	Summary

Construction products: Application of the directive 89/106/EEC

OBJECTIVE: to present the Commission report on the implementation of the "construction products" directive (89/106/EEC), which aims to ensure the free movement of all construction products throughout the EU. **CONTENT:** the Commission finds the slow and gradual implementation of the directive rather unsatisfactory. Reflection is needed on the ways and means of increasing efficiency in this field, as a result of: 1) a commitment on the part of the Member States in the following areas: a) fire regulations (defining tests for each product class); b) works regulations (taking account of the Eurocodes on works structures in national regulations); c) mutual recognition of tests on products during the transitional period preceding the adoption of harmonized standards and 2) changes adapted to needs in applying the directive: simplifying the decision-making procedures and enlightened implementation of the directive owing to the new approach. To overcome all the difficulties in implementing the directive in practice : - the Commission should undertake to clarify the detailed rules for implementing the directive, speed up the work and draw up a work plan; - the Member States should avoid insisting on a multitude of detailed rules in the implementing provisions; - lastly, the European Committee on Standardization should commit itself to actually putting in place a programme to develop harmonized standards. In view of the scope this creates for improving the way in which the directive is applied, the Commission does not consider it appropriate to propose amending the directive at this stage. It reserves the right to propose any amendments deemed necessary on the basis of the prevailing situation in two years' time.?

Construction products: Application of the directive 89/106/EEC

The construction industry accounts for approximately 10% of the GDP of the European Union (ECU 600 billion). It employs some 9 million workers directly and 14 million workers depend on it indirectly (service companies, public services, distribution, deliveries). The construction industry therefore accounts for approximately 20% of total employment in Europe. Some 1.8 million enterprises work in the industry, mainly small and medium-sized enterprises employing a staff of fewer than 20 salaried employees. The aim of the "construction products directive" adopted on 21 December 1988 is to eliminate barriers to the free movement of construction products due mainly to differing standards, test and conformity certification procedures and national construction regulations. The directive lays down the main requirements applicable to structures (mechanical resistance and stability, fire safety, hygiene, health, environment, safe use, soundproofing, energy saving and thermal insulation). Eight years after the directive entered into force, 17 out of 40 sets of products have been standardized. There are 70 products and groups of products which still need basic standards and 1,000 - 1,500 standardization projects. The blame lies at the door of the Member States, who are standing their ground. The rapporteur, Mr Werner LANGEN (PPE, D) called on the Commission to adopt the standardization mandates and implementing decision relating to the outstanding product groups by mid-1998 and proposed that, when handing down a standardization mandate, the Commission should at the same time enter into an agreement which imposes daily penalties if the deadline for the completion of a standard is not observed and, conversely, provides for a bonus if the European Standardization Committee (CEN) completes a standard before the deadline. He deplored the lack of progress in the mutual recognition of test procedures for construction products, for which the Member States' obstructiveness was to blame and called for an end to over-regulation of and excessive burdens on the manufacturers and users of construction products. Finally, he called for a ban on the use of chrysotile asbestos in construction products.?

Construction products: Application of the directive 89/106/EEC

In adopting the report by Mr Werner LANGEN (PPE, D) on application of the 'Construction Products' Directive, the European Parliament calls on the Commission to: - do everything in its power to reduce appreciably the period of at least five years it forecasts for the completion of standards relating to many construction products and to agree with the European standardization institutions on clear timetables for the establishing of standards; - adopt the standardization mandates and implementing decisions relating to the outstanding product groups by mid-1998; - ensure that the interests of consumers and persons concerned with environmental protection are upheld in the EU's standardization bodies. It proposes that, when handing down a standardization mandate, the Commission should at the same time enter into an agreement which imposes daily penalties if the deadline for the completion of a standard is not observed and, conversely, provides for a bonus if the European Standardization Committee (CEN) completes a standard before the deadline. Parliament is particularly critical of the lack of progress in the mutual recognition of test procedures for construction products, for which the Member States' obstructiveness is to blame. It calls for an end to over-regulation and excessive burdens on the manufacturers and users of construction products. Finally, it calls for a ban on the use of chrysotile asbestos in construction products. ?