


Procedure file

Basic information		
INI - Own-initiative procedure	1996/2147(INI)	Procedure completed
The urban environment		
Subject 4.70.04 Urban policy, cities, town and country planning		

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	ENVI Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection	PSE POLLACK Anita Jean	07/05/1996

Key events			
02/05/1995	Non-legislative basic document published	B4-0532/1995	
05/09/1996	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
23/04/1998	Vote in committee		Summary
23/04/1998	Committee report tabled for plenary	A4-0177/1998	
01/07/1998	Debate in Parliament		
02/07/1998	Decision by Parliament	T4-0397/1998	Summary
02/07/1998	End of procedure in Parliament		
20/07/1998	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	1996/2147(INI)
Procedure type	INI - Own-initiative procedure
Procedure subtype	Initiative
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 143-p5
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	ENVI/4/08099

Documentation gateway			

Non-legislative basic document		B4-0532/1995	02/05/1995	EP	
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A4-0177/1998 OJ C 210 06.07.1998, p. 0006	23/04/1998	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T4-0397/1998 OJ C 226 20.07.1998, p. 0011-0034	02/07/1998	EP	Summary

The urban environment

An urban environment programme aimed at sustainable development was called by the Committee. Unanimously adopting an own-initiative report by Mrs Anita POLLACK (PES, UK), the committee also urged continued support for a campaign for sustainable cities, the development of comparable indicators of sustainability (enabling the performance of cities to be compared on a like basis) and the implementation of a scheme to audit sustainability. In March last year the committee held a public hearing on sustainable cities. Sustainable development is defined as development that delivers basic environmental, social and economic services to all residents of a community without threatening the viability of the natural, built and social systems upon which the delivery of these services depends. The report by Mrs Pollack pointed out that while 80% of the population of Europe live in urban areas, more than half the EU budget is spent in rural areas. It also noted that urban pollution did not stay within national borders. The report, which contains a motion for a resolution, acknowledged the relationship between lack of social cohesion and urban environmental problems, with European cities facing growing economic and social problems and environmental degradation. A partnership approach to the urban environment, involving local authorities, industry, NGOs, etc, should be developed and the European Commission should create an interdepartmental urban affairs unit. The report follows the publication last year of the Commission Communication "Towards an Urban Agenda in the European Union". A previous own-initiative report drafted by Mr Ken COLLINS (PES, UK), current chairman of the Environment Committee, led to the publication by the European Commission in 1990 of its ground-breaking green paper on the urban environment. ?

The urban environment

In adopting the report by Mrs Anita POLLACK (PSE, UK) on Strengthening EU Urban Environment Policy, the European Parliament called on the Commission to develop, in conjunction with other parties (e.g. experts on the urban environment), an overall vision for urban problems including sustainability issues, and to create a cross-departmental urban affairs unit to improve coordination on urban issues. The document to be drafted should take account of the impact of Community policies on urban areas. It called on the Commission to continue to support the Sustainable Cities Campaign, and a programme of pilot projects under URBAN, LIFE or other available sections of the budget. It called on the Commission to produce more and better information on the state of Europe's urban environment and ensure its widespread dissemination. The Commission should also devise and develop comparable sustainability indicators and implement a sustainability audit scheme which could be applied when Community financial aid was granted.?