


Procedure file

Basic information	
COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic) 1996/2110(COS)	Procedure completed
The progress achieved by the European Union. Report 1995	
Subject 8 State and evolution of the Union	

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	INST Institutional Affairs	PPE VALVERDE LÓPEZ José	25/07/1996
Council of the European Union			

Key events			
28/06/1996	Non-legislative basic document published	N4-0409/1996	
17/07/1996	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
20/11/1996	Vote in committee		Summary
20/11/1996	Committee report tabled for plenary	A4-0396/1996	
29/01/1997	Debate in Parliament		Summary
30/01/1997	Decision by Parliament	T4-0029/1997	Summary
30/01/1997	End of procedure in Parliament		
24/02/1997	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	1996/2110(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	INST/4/08001

Documentation gateway

Non-legislative basic document		N4-0409/1996	28/06/1996	CSL	
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A4-0396/1996 OJ C 020 20.01.1997, p. 0003	20/11/1996	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T4-0029/1997 OJ C 055 24.02.1997, p. 0014-0033	30/01/1997	EP	Summary

The progress achieved by the European Union. Report 1995

The committee (chairman: Mr BERTHU (NI, F)) unanimously adopted (with one abstention) the own initiative resolution by Mr José Luis VALVERDE (PPE, E) on the report by the European Council on the progress achieved in the European Union in 1995. The committee regretted deeply that the Council text was merely a formal enumeration of the activities undertaken during the year. As the European Council was not the same institution as the Council of the European Union, its report should in future include a political assessment of the progress achieved and the problems which have arisen. Mr VALVERDE noted in his report that 1995 marked a step backwards in the implementation of the CFSP, "especially as the Union was particularly active in the external field". The common positions and joint actions were fewer in number and less substantial than in 1994. The rapporteur also drew attention to the main objectives which Parliament had set in areas such as employment, action to combat fraud, transparency, citizenship, the third pillar or simplification of the legislative procedures. With regard to the IGC, the committee deplored the lack of goodwill thus far manifested by the negotiators and reaffirmed that there could be no enlargement without "far-reaching institutional reform of the Union" and categorically rejected any attempt to defer what was really at stake in the IGC until a subsequent reform. Without doubt, everyone considered that the enlargement of the Union was an unprecedented opportunity to unify Europe politically; however, candidate countries needed to be aware of the fact that the European Union was not simply a single market, it was also a process of political, economic and monetary unity.?

The progress achieved by the European Union. Report 1995

Hoping that public opinion might gain a better idea of the constructive cooperation between the EU institutions following a debate such as the one today, the rapporteur commented that Parliament's proposals coincided with the Madrid Summit conclusions which were known by the name of Agenda 2000 and which had subsequently been clarified by the European Councils in Florence and Dublin. He stressed the importance of the agreement on the single currency and the progress towards further enlargement, among other issues. He also cited, among Parliament's priorities, the creation of a European legal area and the reinforcement of cooperation on internal policies, together with the launch of a strategy to combat terrorism and drug trafficking. Consolidation of the CFSP and the status of the European citizen was also needed. Commissioner Oreja firstly highlighted the Commission's constant concern to locate citizenship at the heart of the European Union. In this respect, the Commission wanted to eliminate any obstacles to the free movement of persons and to bring cooperation on legal and internal affairs under Community responsibility. It also wanted to make the EU's decision-making process simpler and more democratic by extending codecision to all Community legislation. Finally, as regards the CFSP, qualified majority voting should be extended to this area, a common analysis unit needed to be created and a security and defence identity should be built up.

The progress achieved by the European Union. Report 1995

Parliament adopted the report by Mr José Luis VALVERDE (PPE, E) on the report of the European Council on the progress achieved by the European Union in 1995. It regretted deeply that the Council text was merely a formal enumeration of the activities undertaken during the year. As the European Council was not the same institution as the Council of the European Union its report should in future include a political assessment of the progress achieved and the problems which have arisen. The report deplored a step backward in the implementation of the CFSP 'especially as the Union was particularly active in the external field'. The common positions and joint actions were fewer in number and less substantial than in 1994. The report also drew attention to the main objectives which Parliament had set in areas such as employment, action to combat fraud, transparency, citizenship, the third pillar or simplification of the legislative procedures, which should be reduced to codecision, assent and consultation. Parliament reaffirmed the need to extend the scope of the codecision procedure to all legislative acts. In general the co-decision procedure was working well and promisingly, even though this procedure should be improved and simplified, without modifying its nature. With regard to the IGC, Parliament regretted that it had not been granted observer status and deplored the lack of goodwill thus far manifested by the negotiators. It reaffirmed that there could be no enlargement without far-reaching institutional reform of the Union and categorically rejected any attempt to defer what was really at stake in the IGC until a subsequent reform. ?