


Procedure file

Basic information	
COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic) 1996/2175(COS)	Procedure completed
Public health: integration of health protection requirements in Community policies. 2nd report 1995	
Subject 4.20 Public health	

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	 Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection	PPE FLEMMING Marialiese	17/12/1996
Council of the European Union	Council configuration	Meeting	Date
	Health	1961	12/11/1996
	Health	1890	30/11/1995

Key events			
30/11/1995	Resolution/conclusions adopted by Council		
04/09/1996	Non-legislative basic document published	COM(1996)0407	Summary
12/11/1996	Resolution/conclusions adopted by Council		
13/12/1996	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
21/01/1998	Vote in committee		Summary
21/01/1998	Committee report tabled for plenary	A4-0022/1998	
10/03/1998	Debate in Parliament		
11/03/1998	Decision by Parliament	T4-0142/1998	Summary
11/03/1998	End of procedure in Parliament		
06/04/1998	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	1996/2175(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	ENVI/4/08217

Documentation gateway

Non-legislative basic document	COM(1996)0407	04/09/1996	EC	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading	A4-0022/1998 OJ C 080 16.03.1998, p. 0003	21/01/1998	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading	T4-0142/1998 OJ C 104 06.04.1998, p. 0104-0148	11/03/1998	EP	Summary

Public health: integration of health protection requirements in Community policies. 2nd report 1995

OBJECTIVE: This, the second report on the integration of health requirements in Community policies gives an overview of the activities of the Community and the Member States with repercussions on health in 1995. In publishing this report, the Commission wishes to stimulate public debate on how best to integrate health requirements in drawing up all Community policies and to ensure that this dimension is better taken into account in achieving the objectives of the communities

SUBSTANCE: The report builds on the first report on the integration of health protection requirements in Community policies (COM(95)0196), published in 1995, and concentrates on a number of key policy areas in which the most important health-related developments have taken place: social policy; internal market; agriculture, fisheries and food; research and development; environment and energy; transport; and international cooperation. It also includes the work of relevant agencies and other outside bodies connected to the Community. The report shows that major progress has been made in raising awareness of the numerous links with and effects on health which the vast majority of Community policy areas have - and therefore of the importance of integrating health issues early on in the preparatory work for drafting policies and action programmes - both within the Community institutions and in the Member States. Furthermore, the fact that health issues also tend to generate considerable media attention and raise major concerns among the population is another reason why they need to be taken into account at an early stage of policy formulation. At the strictly Community level, the report makes clear that health is a consideration running through Community policy. For example, tobacco features in the preventive programme "Europe against cancer" and in agricultural policy which grants subsidies for planting less harmful tobacco varieties. Similarly, drugs are the subject of public health measures and of cooperation in internal and justice affairs and development cooperation. At the same time, the Commission point out that several important health-related issues are not directly administered by the Community but by independent agencies (European Agency for Safety and Health at Work, the European Medicines Evaluation Agency, the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction, etc.). Noting the separation between the action taken and the location of the decision-making, the Commission renews the emphasis it placed in its first report on the need for complementarity. It is important to incorporate the public-health dimension, particularly in areas where the legislative ground work has been prepared, and to study its possible impact. Overall, health protection requirements are gaining in importance both as a result of the consultation process installed inside the Commission and because of growing public awareness of the health implications of other policy areas. However, the Commission believes that this trend must be reinforced and hopes that publication of this report will provide an opportunity for debate with all the authorities concerned including those in the regions and the Member States. ?

Public health: integration of health protection requirements in Community policies. 2nd report 1995

Aid for tobacco growing in Europe should be abandoned within 10 years, the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection Committee recommended. Adopting a non-legislative report by Mrs Marilies FLEMMING (EPP, A) on a Commission report regarding the integration of health protection in Community policies, the committee also called for a radical reform of the existing aid system "taking account in particular of the proven damaging effects of tobacco consumption on health". The committee welcomed many aspects of the Commission report but complained that Commission statements on the internal market and on agriculture and food were "confined to incomplete generalizations". It called on the Commission to press ahead with the integration of health protection requirements in European food law. Other committee demands included continuation of the ban on the use of hormones to fatten animals, the subjection of imported foodstuffs to the same health requirements as Community products, greater freedom of movement for the medical profession, a strengthening of patients' rights and stringent liability laws in the nuclear industry. The Commission representative said his institution would take all of Parliament's remarks into account. On tobacco in particular, Commissioner Flynn was putting all his weight behind reform. Hopefully, future developments would be in line with what Parliament and particularly the Environment Committee had been trying for years to bring about.

Public health: integration of health protection requirements in Community policies. 2nd report 1995

In adopting the report by Mrs Marialiese FLEMMING (PPE, A) on the integration of health protection requirements in Community policies,

Parliament welcomed the numerous aspects of the Commission report on this subject but regretted the fact that the Commission's statements concerning the internal market, agriculture and foodstuffs remained general and incomplete. It called on the Commission to continue to present an annual report on health and to step up health protection requirements, particularly in food legislation. Parliament called, inter alia, for: - the ban on the use of growth hormones in livestock farming to be continued, - the same health requirements to be applied to imported foodstuffs as to Community products, - greater freedom of movement for doctors, - enhancement of patients' rights, particularly by means of the submission of a study of national provisions for compensation in the event of medical errors, - adoption of more stringent legislation in the nuclear field, - a communication on the situation regarding products containing vitamins and mineral salts in the Union, - special preventive health measures concerning older workers to ensure that they were not prematurely forced out of gainful employment, - a higher level of protection than that permitted by Codex alimentarius recommendations. On the subject of tobacco, Parliament considered that both the ideas put forward by the Agriculture Council, with the aim of reducing aid for quantity, and the subsidies for the conversion of tobacco growing would contribute to better health protection. It urged the Commission to put forward a reform plan for the tobacco industry taking account of the harm done to human health by tobacco consumption, but did not endorse the rapporteur's proposal that, as a long-term objective, support for tobacco growing in Europe should be abolished within ten years at most. Parliament called on the Council to adopt a more constructive approach to the role of the Union in the field of public health cooperation, and on the Commission, when drawing up the preliminary draft budget for 1999, to take account of the growing importance of public health at European level. In this connection, it called on the Commission to submit a report on the future of health policy after Amsterdam. ?