

# Procedure file

Basic information	
COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic) <a href="#">1997/2206(COS)</a>	Procedure completed
Public contracts: participation of European Economic Interest Groupings EEIGs	
Subject 2.10.02 Public procurement 3.45.07 Social economy, mutual societies, cooperatives, associations	

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	<b>ECON</b> Economic and Monetary Affairs, Industrial Policy		20/10/1997
		PSE <a href="#">TAPPIN Michael</a>	
	Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
	<b>JURI</b> Legal Affairs, Citizens' Rights		14/10/1997
		PSE <a href="#">VERDE I ALDEA Josep</a>	
Council of the European Union			

Key events			
09/09/1997	Non-legislative basic document published	COM(1997)0434	Summary
21/11/1997	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
20/05/1998	Vote in committee		Summary
20/05/1998	Committee report tabled for plenary	<a href="#">A4-0196/1998</a>	
14/07/1998	Debate in Parliament		
14/07/1998	Decision by Parliament	T4-0419/1998	Summary
14/07/1998	End of procedure in Parliament		
21/09/1998	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	1997/2206(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/4/09286

## Documentation gateway

Non-legislative basic document		COM(1997)0434	09/09/1997	EC	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		<a href="#">A4-0196/1998</a> <a href="#">OJ C 210 06.07.1998, p. 0006</a>	20/05/1998	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T4-0419/1998 <a href="#">OJ C 292 21.09.1998, p. 0018-0039</a>	14/07/1998	EP	Summary

## Public contracts: participation of European Economic Interest Groupings EEIGs

**OBJECTIVE:** to ensure the participation of European economic interest groupings (EEIGs) in public contracts and programmes financed by public funds. **SUBSTANCE:** the object of the Commission communication is to provide clarification and thus remove all uncertainty still preventing optimum use of the EEIG in public procurement, directly linked access to credit, and programmes financed by public funds. The Commission states that the EEIG is currently the only legal vehicle for cooperation that is directly connected with the Community system and that it thus constitutes a key element in European cooperation, particularly for SMEs wishing to participate in European-scale projects. It considers it essential that all actors concerned with the use of EEIGs, and firms or bodies concluding contracts with an EEIG, should be fully aware of its characteristics and potential. ?

## Public contracts: participation of European Economic Interest Groupings EEIGs

European Economic Interest Groupings (EEIGs) are the Union's only legal vehicle for co-operation between companies and as such are an important instrument, particularly for SMEs who wish to participate in procurement or EU programmes since the mechanism gives members greater negotiating power than they could enjoy as individual entities. Yet despite the clearly identified advantages that can exist in establishing an EEIG, the Commission notes in a Communication there are currently only about 800 operating within the EU. To help overcome this the Commission Communication seeks to clarify the rules on EEIGs in order to "remove all uncertainty still preventing the maximum use of EEIGs in public procurement, access to credit, and participation in public programmes". Reporting for the Committee, Michael TAPPIN (PES, UK) supports the objectives laid down by the Commission, namely increasing the level of EEIGs participation in procurement and in programmes. However, he does believe that the Commission could do more to promote EEIGs amongst SMEs, for example by setting up a EEIG panel - made up of national and sectoral representatives, as well as the Social Partners - at EU level to advise and inform about EEIGs and related issues. Further, the Commission is called upon to further study the matter and present a follow-up Communication within two years suggesting, if necessary, modifications to the interpretative texts in the present Communication and possibly additional measures to promote EEIGs. Finally, the Committee calls on the Commission and the Member States to try to work out informal solutions to a number of outstanding problems relating to EEIGs, in particular problems of joint and sever liability, trans-national contracts, credit facilities and non-discrimination. ?

## Public contracts: participation of European Economic Interest Groupings EEIGs

In adopting the report by Mr Michael TAPPIN (PSE, UK) Parliament supported the Commission's aims. It considered, however, that the Commission could do more to increase the use of EEIGs by SMEs, for example by establishing an EEIG panel at European level. It also called on the Commission: - to present a further Communication within two years suggesting modifications to the interpretive texts and, possibly, additional measures to promote the EEIG mechanism; - to encourage Member States to identify or establish centres where good quality advice and training were available to SMEs wishing to participate in the EEIG mechanism; - to promote the use of information technologies as part of the dissemination of information and advice; - to encourage Member State cooperation for the resolution of certain recurrent problems: joint and several liability, transnational contracts, credit facilities, non-discrimination, etc.; - to launch a pilot scheme for a financial instrument seeking to encourage crossborder investment within the Union aimed at supporting the efforts of EEIGs carrying out their activity in another Member State by means of a network of banks and venture capital funds. ?