


Procedure file

Basic information		
INI - Own-initiative procedure	1997/2102(INI)	Procedure completed
Future of the European Social Fund (ESF)		
Subject 4.10.15 European Social Fund (ESF), Fund for European Aid to the Most Deprived (FEAD)		

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
	REGI Regional Policy	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
	BUDG Budgets		

Key events			
16/05/1997	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
07/10/1997	Vote in committee		Summary
06/10/1997	Committee report tabled for plenary	A4-0327/1997	
20/11/1997	Debate in Parliament		
21/11/1997	Decision by Parliament	T4-0587/1997	Summary
21/11/1997	End of procedure in Parliament		
08/12/1997	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	1997/2102(INI)
Procedure type	INI - Own-initiative procedure
Procedure subtype	Initiative
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 54
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	EMPL/4/08941

Documentation gateway				
Document attached to the procedure		SEC(1996)2150	27/11/1996	EC

Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading	A4-0327/1997 OJ C 371 08.12.1997, p. 0002	07/10/1997	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading	T4-0587/1997 OJ C 371 08.12.1997, p. 0239-0251	21/11/1997	EP	Summary

Future of the European Social Fund (ESF)

The Committee adopted a report on the future of the European Social Fund, prepared by Mrs Karin JÖNS (PES, DE). The report favours a drastic reduction in the objectives of the Structural Funds and the Community initiatives. In this respect, the Committee suggests that Objectives 3 and 4 should be combined into a single horizontal objective, and that only one Community initiative should be retained for human resources support, namely the one that promotes equality and opportunity between men and women. On the other hand, the Committee stresses the need to retain the current measures under Objective 3 Social Funds, which provide support to the young and long-term unemployed, women, the disabled and the socially excluded. The Committee presents a long list of measures, where Social Fund interventions should be strengthened, such as the promotion of local employment initiatives, support for the development of new organizations of working time, the development of vocational training, and the promotion of the mainstreaming of Social Fund initiatives. In all cases, social partners should be involved in negotiating the intervention framework between the Commission and the authorities of the Member States. ?

Future of the European Social Fund (ESF)

In adopting the report by Mrs Karin JÖNS (PSE,D), the European Parliament advocates a drastic reduction in the objectives of the Structural Funds and the Community initiatives. In particular, it calls for Objectives 3 and 4 to be combined into a single horizontal objective and for the Community initiatives on human resources support to be reduced to a single initiative promoting equal opportunities for men and women. On the other hand, it calls for the retention of current measures under Objective 3 in favour of the young unemployed, long-term unemployed, women, disabled and socially excluded. Parliament presents a long list of measures to strengthen ESF intervention, including the promotion of local employment initiatives, support for the reorganisation of working time, development of vocational training, and promotion of the mainstreaming of the ESF initiatives. In all cases the social partners should be involved in negotiating the intervention framework between the Commission and the authorities responsible in the Member States. Regarding the reallocation of unused appropriations, Parliament calls on the Commission to make them available first of all to other regions of the same Member State, and then to other Member States, the criteria for selecting such regions and States being a high level of commitment appropriations and the quality of measures. In this case it regards it as desirable for the ESF assistance rate to be changed to 90% in the less-favoured regions where per capita GDP is less than 75% of the Community average, and to 70% in the rest of the Union. Parliament considers that national expenditure on social and employment policy must not fall victim to the efforts to achieve budget savings. It calls for co-financing (Community-Member States) to be maintained and for Member States to be able to decide for themselves how to obtain the necessary funds, including contributions from the regions or private sector. ?