


Procedure file

Basic information		
COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic)	1997/2238(COS)	Procedure completed
Expiry of the ECSC Treaty: financial activities		
Subject 8.30 Treaties in general		

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	BUDG Budgets		24/11/1997
		UPE GIANILY Jean-Antoine	
	Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
	ECON Economic and Monetary Affairs, Industrial Policy		16/12/1997
		PPE LULLING Astrid	
	ENER Research, Technological Development and Energy		22/01/1998
		PSE GRAENITZ Ilona	
	CONT Budgetary Control		22/04/1998
		PSE BLAK Freddy	
Council of the European Union	Council configuration	Meeting	Date
	Agriculture and Fisheries	2115	20/07/1998
	Industry	2043	13/11/1997

Key events			
08/10/1997	Non-legislative basic document published	COM(1997)0506	Summary
06/11/1997	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
13/11/1997	Debate in Council	2043	
20/07/1998	Resolution/conclusions adopted by Council		
22/09/1998	Vote in committee		Summary
22/09/1998	Committee report tabled for plenary	A4-0330/1998	
20/10/1998	Debate in Parliament		
22/10/1998	Decision by Parliament	T4-0616/1998	Summary

22/10/1998	End of procedure in Parliament		
09/11/1998	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	1997/2238(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	BUDG/4/09389

Documentation gateway

Non-legislative basic document	COM(1997)0506 OJ C 335 06.11.1997, p. 0009	08/10/1997	EC	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading	A4-0330/1998 OJ C 328 26.10.1998, p. 0004	22/09/1998	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading	T4-0616/1998 OJ C 341 09.11.1998, p. 0100-0123	22/10/1998	EP	Summary
Document attached to the procedure	SEC(1998)1948	16/11/1998	EC	

Expiry of the ECSC Treaty: financial activities

OBJECTIVE: this communication seeks to define the arrangements for the succession of the ECSC and to identify the designation of the assets of this body in the light of the expiry of the ECSC Treaty in 2002. SUBSTANCE: Following an in-depth analysis, the Commission considers that the scenario chosen should make it possible to reconcile the actual need in terms of ECSC budget aid between now and 2002 and to respect the technical constraints connected with the performance guarantee for all ECSC budget and financial operations outstanding at that date. The scenario chosen has the following elements: 1) the assets of the ECSC (i.e. about ECU 1.3 billion in 2002, plus or minus the amounts generated in relation to ongoing business) in liquidation following expiry of the Treaty should revert to the Communities remaining, 2) administration of these assets (servicing of loans and borrowings and management of the reserves and possible debts) should be entrusted to the Communities remaining (represented by the Commission) and not by the Member States as would normally be the case, 3) all the net revenue (around ECU 40 million a year) from the management of the ECSC assets would constitute earmarked revenue under the general budget for financing research outside the framework programme, to be managed by the Commission and directed at sectors related to the coal and steel industries: - this mechanism would be set up for an indefinite period with the possibility of a revision (review of the situation accompanied by any appropriate proposals) which could be timed to coincide with the end of the sixth framework research programme, - research activities would carry on from the ECSC-funded programmes, with due allowance for the desire to open them up to other sectors as expressed in the Amsterdam European Council's resolution on growth and employment, - the procedures and implementation arrangements should be based broadly on the approach which has proved successful in the past, namely: . adoption of multiannual guidelines (every 5 years) by the Commission for new actions and publication of calls for proposals on the basis of these guidelines, . appraisal and selection of these proposals after consultation of two committees (steel research committee and coal research committee) made up of experts appointed by the Commission, . implementation by the Commission through the committees of experts bringing together the various sectors concerned (including representatives of the SMEs). ?

Expiry of the ECSC Treaty: financial activities

Jean-Antoine Giansily (F, UFE) will be reporting for the budgets committee on the Commission communication on the financial issues raised by the expiry of the European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC) Treaty in 2002. The expiry of the ECSC will leave immediate cash resources in the form of provisions and future resources in the form of reserves which can be released on varying dates. It is proposed that the assets and liabilities of the ECSC should be managed by the Commission after 2002, with Parliament playing a role as the budgetary authority. All net revenue arising from ECSC assets would constitute earmarked revenue in the general EU budget and would be used to finance research in sectors related to the coal and steel industries and thus be a logical continuation of ECSC-financed programmes...Mr Giansily is broadly in agreement with the Commission proposals as he still sees a need for assistance from the EU budget to areas that were formerly dependent on coal and steel industry. He points out the need to involve the applicant countries in the research programmes, as some have large coal industries and he notes that the next stage will involve drawing up the detailed arrangements for implementing this transition process.?

Expiry of the ECSC Treaty: financial activities

Adopting the report by Mr Jean-Antoine Giansily on the expiry of the ECSC Treaty, Parliament approves the Commission's general guidelines with regard to allocation of total assets of the ECSC to the remaining Communities, subject to specific consultation of Parliament at the appropriate time. Parliament also reaffirms its position that the ECSC reserves will constitute the capital of the future European Coal and Steel Foundation/Agency and calls on the Commission to submit proposals in this regard. It also falls for a major part of funds from ECSC assets to be devoted to research and development in the coal and steel sectors and for improved dissemination of the results of this research to SMEs.

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