


Procedure file

Basic information		
COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic)	1997/2185(COS)	Procedure completed
AGENDA 2000: economic and social cohesion		
Subject		
4 Economic, social and territorial cohesion		
8.20.08 Enlargement's economic and monetary point of view		
8.20.20 Enlargement's employment and social point of view		

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	REGI Regional Policy		25/11/1997
		V SCHROEDTER Elisabeth	
	Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
	AFET Foreign Affairs, Security and Defense Policy	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
	BUDG Budgets		03/02/1998
	PSE COLOM I NAVAL Joan		
CONT Budgetary Control	The committee decided not to give an opinion.		
PECH Fisheries		17/11/1997	
	UPE GALLAGHER Pat the Cope		
Council of the European Union			

Key events			
15/07/1997	Non-legislative basic document published	COM(1997)2000	
22/10/1997	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
25/05/1998	Vote in committee		Summary
25/05/1998	Committee report tabled for plenary	A4-0210/1998	
16/06/1998	Debate in Parliament		
18/06/1998	Decision by Parliament	T4-0360/1998	Summary
18/06/1998	End of procedure in Parliament		
06/07/1998	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	1997/2185(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	REGI/4/09167

Documentation gateway					
Document attached to the procedure		COM(1997)2000	15/07/1997	EC	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A4-0210/1998 OJ C 210 06.07.1998, p. 0007	25/05/1998	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T4-0360/1998 OJ C 210 06.07.1998, p. 0168-0189	18/06/1998	EP	Summary

AGENDA 2000: economic and social cohesion

By unanimously adopting the report by Elisabeth SCHROEDTER (Greens, D) on the economic and social cohesion aspects of AGENDA 2000, the Committee reiterated the importance it attaches to the principle of partnership especially in the establishment of programmes and during the proposed phasing out period. Members expressed their fears that as a result of the Commission's proposals rural areas will be losing out and future support will be insufficient. In addition, Members are concerned that Commission's development policies for rural areas (switch to the guarantee section of the EAGGF) will undermine local and regional partnership as well as the controlling powers of the European Parliament. For this reason the Committee proposes a division of objective 2 into two sub-categories. This, it considered, would avoid an imbalance to the detriment of the Union's rural areas. Cooperation with third countries in the context of INTERREG and PHARE should be facilitated through an examination of methods of creating joint funds. Members called for an increase in the funding of innovative measures and expressed doubt as to the viability and size of the proposed 10% reserve system. The Commission's intention to eliminate the possibility of rebudgetisation which would remove the privileged position of heading 2 was rejected. With respect to the enlargement process the creation of a specific and permanent financial instrument under the Structural Funds designed to ensure gradual and optimum integration of the applicant countries, is considered adequate.?

AGENDA 2000: economic and social cohesion

In adopting the report by Mrs Elisabeth SCHROEDTER (V, D) on economic and social cohesion within the framework of AGENDA 2000, the European Parliament takes the view that the European Union's philosophy of integration is credible only if it continues to make economic and social cohesion a political priority. Welcoming the Commission's plan to reform the Structural Funds on the lines of concentration, simplification and efficiency, Parliament calls for account to be taken of the following objectives: - sustainable development, - a high level of employment achieved by paying particular attention to SMEs, - innovation and incorporation of new technologies, - an appropriate level of social protection, - the combatting of social exclusion, - a better quality of life, - an improved environment, - equal opportunities for men and women, - guarantee of a European added value when responsibilities are shifted, as planned, to the Member States It calls for continued priority to be given to aid for Objective 1 regions on the basis of a per capita GDP lower than 75% of the Community average. It believes that 2/3 of all Structural Fund resources should be allocated to these regions. It welcomes the Commission's proposal to allow all regions of the Union which will no longer be eligible under Objectives 1, 2 and 5b a transitional phase tailored to their requirements. It welcomes the idea of providing guaranteed funding for rural development as part of agricultural reform and urges that Parliament be allowed to participate in assessment and budget control regarding rural development programmes. It proposes the splitting of Objective 2 into two sub-categories - industrial/urban and rural and fisheries - with their own specific eligibility criteria, objectives and financial quotas - to ensure specific and guaranteed support for the rural environment. It calls for Objective 3 to be focussed on support for local development and employment initiatives. It calls on the Commission to ensure that resources for Community initiatives which have been limited are allocated only to projects with a European added value. It calls for special aid for regions which, given their geographic location, share an external border with applicant countries, particularly within the framework of INTERREG. Parliament supports moves by the Commission to improve the effectiveness and profitability of the Structural Funds while expressing doubt as to the viability of the 10% reserve system. It expresses the hope that EIB and EIF loans are used as supplementary funding in addition to Structural Fund subsidies. It calls on the Commission not to make savings which undermine the principle of economic and social cohesion by penalizing the failure to disperse appropriations through a decision not to reincorporate those appropriations into the budget in the context of multiannual programming. It suggests the introduction of provisional arrangements for establishing programmes prior to the final adoption of the structural fund regulations so as to guarantee the prompt participation of all parties concerned. It also calls on the Council to adopt structural fund rules in time to ensure that the programming phase can commence on schedule. The European Parliament welcomes the extension of the cohesion fund beyond the year 2000 for Member States whose per capita GDP is less than 90% of the Community average. Concerning enlargement the European Parliament considers that provision should be made for a specific horizontal financial instrument designed to ensure gradual and optimum integration of the applicant countries. In the fisheries sector it calls on the

Commission to recognize the particular needs of fisheries areas. Finally, it considers it essential that the Union functions in a transparent manner and to involve the social partners more closely in the activities of the ESF.?