

Procedure file

Basic information		
COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic)	1997/2270(COS)	Procedure completed
Europol Drugs Unit: annual report 1996		
Subject 7.30.30.04 Action to combat drugs and drug-trafficking		

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	LIBE Civil Liberties and Internal Affairs	PSE SCHULZ Martin	28/10/1997
Council of the European Union			

Key events			
12/01/1998	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
01/09/1998	Vote in committee		Summary
01/09/1998	Committee report tabled for plenary	A4-0305/1998	
16/09/1998	Decision by Parliament	T4-0469/1998	Summary
16/09/1998	End of procedure in Parliament		
12/10/1998	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	1997/2270(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	LIBE/4/09512

Documentation gateway					
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A4-0305/1998 OJ C 313 12.10.1998, p. 0008	01/09/1998	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T4-0469/1998	16/09/1998	EP	Summary

Europol Drugs Unit: annual report 1996

The Committee has adopted, with amendments, the draft report by Martin SCHULZ (PES, D) on the 1996 annual report of the Europol Drugs Unit. According to Mr Schulz, the 1996 report does not contain sufficient information, probably owing to the unclear situation in which the EDU is having to operate (the legal base remains weak). However, the figures for 1997 show a decline in the number of cases related to drugs (61%) and money-laundering (9%), a more than two-fold increase in the number linked to illegal immigration (19%), no change in the number of requests relating to trafficking in stolen cars, a very slight increase in the number of cases linked to illegal trafficking in radioactive or nuclear substances and 81 new cases concerning trafficking in human beings. The report calls on the Member States and the bodies of the EDU to emphasise, in their preparations for the entry into force of the Europol Convention, the new professionalism now demanded of the officers of all the forces responsible for enforcing the law and combatting crime. In this connection, it calls for adequate training measures to be carried out in the Member States, for improved knowledge of the EDU and its objectives to be promoted and new instruments and equipment matching the level to which crime has developed to be made available to police forces in the Member States.?

Europol Drugs Unit: annual report 1996

Adopting the report by Mr Martin SCHULZ (PSE, D) on the annual report of the Europol Drugs Unit for 1996 in accordance with Article 52 of the EP Rules of Procedure, the European Parliament considered that the report does not in itself amount to a document that can be put to the European Parliament for democratic scrutiny or even provide it with proper information. It reiterated its previous requests relating to parliamentary scrutiny and the powers to be granted to the Court of Justice to issue preliminary rulings and urged the Council to draft forthwith a protocol to the Europol Convention taking account of these requests. It believes that the protocol on the privileges and immunities for Europol employees makes legal monitoring of the Europol extremely difficult. It also called on the Council to adopt the necessary measures enabling Europol to begin exercising its powers with regard to the fight against terrorism from 1 January 1999. It called on the Member States to suspend the plans to extend Europol's mandate, and to give priority to tasks such as exchanges of information and expertise, support for investigations and training in the areas of: - illicit drug trafficking; - clandestine immigration; - illicit vehicle trafficking; - money laundering; - the fight against terrorism. It invited the Member States and the bodies of Europol to prepare the forthcoming entry into force of the Europol Convention and called for adequate training measures to be conducted in the Member States and for improved knowledge of the EDU and its objectives. It also called for new instruments and equipment matching the level to which crime has developed to be made available to the police forces in the Member States. Finally, it called upon Member States to abandon their attitudes of resistance to the transfer to Europol of operational tasks of police coordination.?