


Procedure file

Basic information		
INI - Own-initiative procedure	1998/2055(INI)	Procedure completed
Harmonization of forms of supplementary protection with regard to refugee status in the European Union		
Subject 7.10.06 Asylum, refugees, displaced persons; Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF)		

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	LIBE Civil Liberties and Internal Affairs		22/04/1998
		PSE LINDEPERG Michèle	
	Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
	INST Institutional Affairs	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
	FEMM Women's Rights		22/09/1998
		PPE LULLING Astrid	

Key events			
13/03/1998	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
24/11/1998	Vote in committee		Summary
24/11/1998	Committee report tabled for plenary	A4-0450/1998	
09/02/1999	Debate in Parliament		
10/02/1999	Decision by Parliament	T4-0098/1999	Summary
10/02/1999	End of procedure in Parliament		
28/05/1999	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	1998/2055(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	LIBE/4/09868

Documentation gateway					
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A4-0450/1998 OJ C 098 09.04.1999, p. 0004	24/11/1998	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T4-0098/1999 OJ C 150 28.05.1999, p. 0155-0203	10/02/1999	EP	Summary

Harmonization of forms of supplementary protection with regard to refugee status in the European Union

The Committee has adopted the report by Michèle LINDEPERG (PES, F) on harmonisation of complementary forms of protection over and above refugee status within the EU. "Complementary protection" would apply to: - persons who have fled their country of origin and/or cannot return because their lives, safety or freedom are threatened by widespread violence, foreign aggression, internal conflict, large-scale violations of human rights or other circumstances which have severely disrupted public order; - persons who have fled their country of origin and/or cannot return because they have justified fears of being tortured, subjected to inhuman or degrading treatment, capital punishment or other violations of their fundamental rights. Using such a definition, the way could be paved for a set of EU rules enabling consideration to be given to the protection requirements deriving from Article 3 of the European Convention on Human Rights or the UN Convention against Torture. This definition must be distinguished from the definition of what constitutes temporary protection. Existence of the specific protection regime, tailored to emergency situations and "mass movements" of population, does not relieve the Commission of the burden of seeking a harmonised definition of what constitutes "complementary" protection valid and applicable to all the EU Member States. The amendments adopted in committee seek, among other things, to step up cooperation with the countries of transit and the main countries of origin of immigrants, give consideration to ways of increasing development aid and economic cooperation, improve the level of human rights protection in such countries and step up measures to combat immigration networks. In addition, says the report, the examination of applications for refugee status must be carried out within a reasonable period, which is far from being the case at present in several Member States. Moreover, status complementary to refugee status must confer rights on the persons concerned, argues the committee, without entering into specifics?

Harmonization of forms of supplementary protection with regard to refugee status in the European Union

The resolution by Michèle Lindeperg (PSE,FR) on the harmonisation of forms of protection complementing refugee status in the European Union was adopted by the European Parliament. The report criticises the procedures of many Member States for examining asylum applications as well as a number of decisions adopted by the Council since the beginning of the decade which formalise certain criteria for refusing to admit asylum-seekers to the procedure for determining their refugee status. It deplores the lack of proper mechanisms for democratic and judicial supervision involving the European Parliament of the transfer of asylum policy from the third pillar to the first pillar by the Treaty of Amsterdam. The Parliament wishes to see proposals for the harmonisation of Member States' asylum policy in line with the Geneva Convention, as soon as the Treaty enters into force and that those persons unable to claim refugee status under the Geneva Convention are entitled to complementary protection. It also asks to be consulted on this matter and calls for greater account to be taken of the rights of women when granting refugee status, for special protection for unaccompanied children and measures to ensure economic and social integration of refugees. The report acknowledges the Austrian Council Presidency's strategy paper on immigration and asylum policy as stimulus for discussion at European level and expresses the Parliament's desire to involve national parliaments, the parliaments of the applicant countries, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the relevant NGOs in a discussion process aimed at establishing genuine protection complementing refugee status in the European Union.?