


Procedure file

Basic information	
COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic) 1998/2056(COS)	Procedure completed
Transparency and democratic control (Article A, TEU)	
Subject 8.40.10 Interinstitutional relations, subsidiarity, proportionality, comitology	

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	INST Institutional Affairs		06/10/1997
		PSE LÖÖW Maj-Lis	
	Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
	JURI Legal Affairs, Citizens' Rights		15/04/1998
		PSE GEBHARDT Evelyne	
	LIBE Civil Liberties and Internal Affairs		30/06/1998
		V ROTH Claudia	
	PETI Petitions	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
Council of the European Union			

Key events			
02/10/1997	Non-legislative basic document published	AMSTERDAM	
03/04/1998	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
01/12/1998	Vote in committee		Summary
01/12/1998	Committee report tabled for plenary	A4-0476/1998	
12/01/1999	Debate in Parliament		
12/01/1999	Decision by Parliament	T4-0003/1999	Summary
12/01/1999	End of procedure in Parliament		
14/04/1999	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	1998/2056(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	INST/4/09875

Documentation gateway

Non-legislative basic document		AMSTERDAM	02/10/1997	EU	
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A4-0476/1998 OJ C 104 14.04.1999, p. 0003	01/12/1998	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T4-0003/1999 OJ C 104 14.04.1999, p. 0014-0020	12/01/1999	EP	Summary

Transparency and democratic control (Article A, TEU)

Maj-Lis Lööw (S, PES) for the Committee on Institutional Affairs will be presenting her report on the issue of EU openness. She welcomes the Amsterdam Treaty provisions which guarantee that there is a public right of access to EU documents and state that EU decisions must be taken as openly as possible and as closely as possible to the citizen. She considers this to be a first step towards establishing a genuine principle of public access in the EU and is calling for full implementation of these provisions. She makes a number of proposals for improving a new code of public access to EU documents. She believes that the code should apply to all EU institutions and bodies and that restrictions on access should be as limited as possible. Mrs Lööw would also like to see greater public access to Council and Commission meetings; fuller use of the Internet; and more open administrative cultures within the various EU institutions and bodies. Finally she will be making a series of further proposals aimed at making the EU more open to its citizens.?

Transparency and democratic control (Article A, TEU)

In adopting the report drafted by Maj-Lis LÖÖW (S, PES), the European Parliament approved the proposal for a resolution on openness within the European Union. All amendments were defeated. The report requests full implementation of the provisions of the Amsterdam Treaty for a new and more comprehensive code on public access to EU documents and the EU's decision-making process. Among the principles proposed for this new code are tighter definitions of the current exceptions to openness and that it should be applied to all EU institutions and bodies. The Parliament undertakes to take various measures to improve its own system of access to documents. It wishes to see improved access to Council documents when it is acting in its legislative capacity and urges the Council to end the practice of secret declarations. It also proposes that the practice of open meetings of the Council and the other institutions of the EU should be considerably extended. Finally, requesting the development of more open administrative cultures, the report calls for all EU legislative proposals, comitology texts and other important EU documents to be placed on the Internet.?