


Procedure file

Basic information		
INI - Own-initiative procedure	1998/2104(INI)	Procedure completed
Criminal proceedings in the EU framework (Corpus juris)		
Subject 7.40.04 Judicial cooperation in criminal matters		

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	LIBE Civil Liberties and Internal Affairs		19/03/1998
		ELDR WIEBENGA Jan-Kees	
	Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
	CONT Budgetary Control	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	

Key events			
15/05/1998	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
17/02/1999	Vote in committee		Summary
17/02/1999	Committee report tabled for plenary	A4-0091/1999	
12/04/1999	Debate in Parliament		
13/04/1999	Decision by Parliament	T4-0255/1999	Summary
13/04/1999	End of procedure in Parliament		
30/07/1999	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	1998/2104(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/4/10060

Documentation gateway					
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A4-0091/1999 OJ C 177 22.06.1999, p. 0002	17/02/1999	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T4-0255/1999 OJ C 219 30.07.1999, p. 0025-0106	13/04/1999	EP	Summary

Criminal proceedings in the EU framework (Corpus juris)

The committee unanimously adopted a report asking for the gradual creation of a European criminal law system and of a European Public Prosecutor. A European criminal law system should be based on the gradual harmonisation of the approaches to serious crimes - sexual exploitation of children, trafficking in persons, drugs trafficking, terrorism, corruption and fraud, and money-laundering - and might in the medium term lead to the appointment of an independent European Public Prosecutor. Rapporteur Jan Kees WIEBENGA (ELDR, NL) argued that the increase in transnational crime demands suitable strategies. The conventions concluded previously to this end only tackle the most urgent problems and, moreover, are difficult to implement because of the cumbersome procedures involved. Recent events, such as the Öcalan and Pinochet cases, have demonstrated once again the urgent need for cooperation in the field of criminal law based on minimum common standards. A European Public Prosecutor might initially serve to centralise judicial information on transnational investigations under way, but at a later stage might be given the responsibility for opening investigations and bringing criminal law proceedings before the competent national courts. These cases would be limited to offences covered by the European criminal law system. The European prosecutor might also provide judicial control of Europol and of the future anti-fraud unit UCLAF or OLAF.?

Criminal proceedings in the EU framework (Corpus juris)

Adopting the own-initiative report by Jan Wiebenga (ELDR,NL) on criminal procedures in the EU, the European Parliament calls for the gradual establishment of a European criminal law system in which account is taken of Member States' legal traditions and, on the basis of the latter, methods are found of combating and preventing international organised crime. This European criminal law system should be based on gradual harmonisation of the approach to serious offences - sexual exploitation of children, trafficking of persons, drug trafficking, terrorism, corruption and fraud, money laundering -which could lead, in the medium or long term, to the appointment of an independent European Public Prosecutor. This European Public Prosecutor might serve to centralise judicial information on transnational investigations under way, and might, at a later stage, be given responsibility for the opening of investigations and the bringing before the competent Member State courts of public criminal law proceedings involving offences covered by the European criminal law system. The Parliament calls on both the Council and the Commission to put in place a genuine legislative programme for the elaboration of the proposed system, making full use of the resources provided by the Amsterdam Treaty. The European Public Prosecutor could equally provide judicial control of the activities of Europol and of the future anti-fraud unit, UCLAF or OLAF. Elsewhere, the Parliament demands that the Council enable it to play its full role in drawing up the legislative programme for a European criminal law system. Finally, it calls on the applicant countries to give their full support to the reforms and to the process of bringing their legal systems and their administrations into line with those of the Community.?