


Procedure file

Basic information		
COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic)	1999/2045(COS)	Procedure completed
European Central Bank ECB. 1998 report		
Subject 5.20.03 European Central Bank (ECB), ESCB		

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	ECON Economic and Monetary Affairs, Industrial Policy	ELDR HUHNE Christopher	27/07/1999
Council of the European Union			

Key events			
10/03/1999	Non-legislative basic document published	N4-0211/1999	Summary
03/05/1999	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
19/07/1999	End of procedure in Parliament		
14/10/1999	Vote in committee		Summary
14/10/1999	Committee report tabled for plenary	A5-0035/1999	
26/10/1999	Debate in Parliament		
27/10/1999	Decision by Parliament	T5-0073/1999	Summary
05/06/2000	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	1999/2045(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	ECON/4/10905

Documentation gateway

Non-legislative basic document		N4-0211/1999	10/03/1999	ECB	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A5-0035/1999 OJ C 154 05.06.2000, p. 0006	14/10/1999	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T5-0073/1999 OJ C 154 05.06.2000, p. 0025-0060	27/10/1999	EP	Summary

European Central Bank ECB. 1998 report

OBJECTIVE : presentation of the 1998 annual report of the European Central Bank. **CONTENT** : this annual report, which is the first to be published by the ECB, outlines the developments which have taken place in the macroeconomic environment, in 1998, for the Member States of the euro zone, as well as the measures taken to finalise the operational framework for monetary union. The report also covers the first weeks of 1999, following the launch of phase III of EMU. The report stresses that the gentle transition to the euro bore testimony to the preparatory work of the EMI and the national central banks. At the beginning of phase III, the Eurosystem was completely operational on both the technical and organisational fronts. The Eurosystem took over responsibility for a single monetary policy in a context of inflation rates compatible with price stability and favourable prospects with respect to the maintenance of stable prices. In this regard, the conditions necessary for sustained economic growth are in place. However, it would appear that the economic expansion of the euro area is experiencing weaknesses and uncertainties coming from outside. In order not to compromise the confidence which has underpinned the convergence efforts already achieved, priority needs to be given to the abolition of structural obstacles preventing an acceleration in economic activity and an improvement in employment. These structural rigidities particularly affect European labour markets. In addition, the confidence has to be backed up by the achievement, as soon as possible, of budgets that are balanced or in surplus. It will also be necessary to deal with the longer term challenges posed by the ageing of the population. The objective from now on is to consolidate the foundations of the stability of the euro and to create the conditions necessary for the return to production and employment.?

European Central Bank ECB. 1998 report

The committee adopted a report by Christopher HUHNE (ELDR, UK) which, while acknowledging that the ECB had made progress in communicating its policy, considered that it was not enough, especially when compared with the information provided by other central banks. The report called on the ECB to adopt measures to improve transparency such as the publication of summary minutes of the governing council's meetings reporting explicitly the arguments for and against the decisions taken and the reasoning behind those decisions. However, the committee stopped short of asking for the names of members voting for and against to be published. The report also called on the President of the Bank to be ready to appear before the Economic and Monetary Affairs Committee after each significant monetary action. Other recommendations included the publication by the Bank of macro-economic forecasts on a six-monthly basis and an overall report of economic developments in the eurozone countries. The committee also considered that the ESCB should clarify how monetary policy could contribute to sustainable growth and employment. The report also dealt with money transfers in the eurozone, calling on the ECB to promote the establishment of European payments systems based on competition between different systems and the development of a separate system for the transfer of small amounts.

European Central Bank ECB. 1998 report

In adopting by 463 votes for and 33 against, with 51 abstentions, the report drafted by Mr. Christopher HUHNE (ELDR, UK), the European Parliament welcomed the progress made by the ECB in terms of its information policy. The EP did, however, note its regret that the ECB has fallen short of the transparency practised by other leading central banks. It considers that the ECB could provide summary minutes taken at meetings of the ECB Governing Council to be published shortly after the following meeting reporting explicitly the arguments for and against the decisions taken, as well as the reasoning used in reaching these decisions. The report also calls for the President of the ECB to make himself available, as a matter of urgency, for a hearing, at the invitation of the Economic and Monetary Affairs Committee, following each significant monetary action. The Parliament calls on the ECB to: - publish macro-economic forecasts on a 6-monthly basis and a regular overall report of economic developments in each of the participating euro-area countries; - make publicly available on an annual basis the econometric models that it uses. The Parliament also considers that the ESCB should make clear how monetary policy is intended, as long as the objective of price stability is maintained, to contribute to a balanced and appropriate policy mix, with a view to promoting sustainable growth and employment. Lastly, the Parliament considers it necessary and appropriate that the ECB be represented at international level, for example in the Bank for International Settlements, the International Monetary Fund and the G7.?