


Procedure file

Basic information		
COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic)	1999/2212(COS)	Procedure completed
Cohesion Fund. Annual report, 1998		
Subject 4.70.02 Cohesion policy, Cohesion Fund (CF)		

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	RETT Regional Policy, Transport and Tourism		24/11/1999
		PPE-DE RIPOLL Y MARTÍNEZ DE BEDOYA Carlos	
	Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
	ITRE Industry, External Trade, Research, Energy		27/01/2000
		PSE DAMIÃO Elisa Maria	
Council of the European Union	PECH Fisheries		

Key events			
15/10/1999	Non-legislative basic document published	COM(1999)0483	Summary
17/12/1999	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
23/05/2000	Vote in committee		Summary
23/05/2000	Committee report tabled for plenary	A5-0140/2000	
15/06/2000	Debate in Parliament		
16/06/2000	Decision by Parliament	T5-0284/2000	Summary
16/06/2000	End of procedure in Parliament		
01/03/2001	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	1999/2212(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	RETT/5/12168

Documentation gateway

Non-legislative basic document	COM(1999)0483	15/10/1999	EC	Summary
Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report	CES0363/2000 OJ C 140 18.05.2000, p. 0014	29/03/2000	ESC	
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading	A5-0140/2000 OJ C 067 01.03.2001, p. 0009	23/05/2000	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading	T5-0284/2000 OJ C 067 01.03.2001, p. 0316-0326	16/06/2000	EP	Summary

Cohesion Fund. Annual report, 1998

OBJECTIVE : Annual Report of the Cohesion Fund 1998. CONTENT : The document covers the activities of the Cohesion Fund during the calendar year 1998. - The Fund operated within a stable macro-economic context, which allowed the four beneficiary countries to meet the budget deficit targets recommended by the Council. With regard to conditionality, all countries had complied with Council recommendations on the conduct of fiscal policy. Ireland was not in an excessive deficit position and in May 1998, the Council decided that Spain and Portugal were no longer in an excessive deficit position. - For reasons of sound management, the Commission proposed a reduction of payment appropriations. From 1993 to the end of 1998, the Fund committed 81% of its overall allocation. Over the six years, each country has received assistance falling in the middle of their proposed target ranges. Transport accounted for 49.9% of commitments and the environment sector or 50.1%. - With regard to transport, the European Parliament and the Economic and Social Committee have repeatedly criticised the fact that the Fund has principally invested in the road sector. In 1997, a greater share of the transport budget went to railways and in 1998 the proportion allocated to roads was further reduced, due in particular to a marked shift towards rail in Spain. Whilst the European Parliament called for more funds to be directed towards airports and seaports, the Commission points out that these activities generate considerable revenues, reducing the need for European Union funds. The Cohesion Funds continue to support the Trans European Network projects adopted by the Essen Council, and 5 of the 14 Essen priority projects are in Cohesion countries. - Environment: In 1998, the Fund continued to concentrate on the water sector, particularly the abstraction and distribution of drinking water and waste water treatment. The monies allocated to waste water problems in 1998 made up 50.1% of the commitments for the environment. The Fund also undertook a study to demonstrate the environmental dimension of the projects it assists. The European Parliament created a budget line which financed this study as well as a video on the same theme. Both the video and the results of the study were distributed. - Information and publicity: In 1998, the Fund participated in publicity events organised by the beneficiary countries. Most of the events were financed by the special budget line set aside by the European Parliament for measures to encourage environmental practice in pursuit of a policy geared to sustainable development. Following the adoption of a decision setting out the beneficiary countries' obligations on information and publicity, the Commission scrutinised carefully the actions of the countries concerned and is, in general, satisfied. - Evaluation and project monitoring: in accordance with the European Parliament's request, the Commission undertook a series of ex-post evaluations that are described in the document. A greater emphasis was placed on project monitoring. The Member States reported no case of fraud to the Commission anti-fraud unit (UCLAF). - Main developments in the beneficiary countries: Greece received ECU 516.4 million, with 40.6% of the total going to environmental projects and 59.4% to transport infrastructure. The environmental projects mainly attempt to remedy the lack of infrastructure in the provision of water and water-waste treatment. Spain received ECU 1 575.1 million, with 55.3% of the total going to environmental projects and 44.7% to transport infrastructure. Of the latter 45% was committed to road projects and 55% for rail. Ireland received ECU 258.5 million in assistance from the Cohesion Fund with 55% of the total going to environmental projects and 45% to transport infrastructure. The road sector continues to account for the bulk of monies. Portugal received ECU 518.1 million from the Fund with 58.6% of the total going to environment projects and 41.1% to transport infrastructure.?

Cohesion Fund. Annual report, 1998

The committee adopted the report by Carlos RIPOLL I MARTINEZ BEDOY (EPP/ED, E) on the Commission's 1998 annual report on the Cohesion Fund. The committee expressed general satisfaction at the results of the Cohesion Fund, in particular the considerable rate of job creation resulting from the Fund's projects. It also welcomed the fact that the 1998 budget had been fully implemented and that no case of fraud had been detected in 1998. It supported the development towards more investment in forms of transport other than the road sector, but called for greater attention to be paid to sustainable modes of transport. As far as the environment was concerned, the committee felt that assistance should move away from the current focus on the water sector and towards other measures to achieve prudent and rational use of resources, such as reforestation and land reclamation. However, it congratulated the Commission on the efficient use of the special budget line, initiated by Parliament, for information and publicity measures to encourage environmental practices geared to sustainable development. The report called for consistency between structural policies and the Cohesion Fund, by incorporating projects financed by the latter into Structural Fund regional planning. The committee raised a number of other points, including the challenge that the forthcoming enlargement would pose for the EU and the need to make preparations in the areas of transport and the environment under the Structural Instrument for Pre-Accession (ISPA). It also issued a reminder of the importance of the fisheries sector, and the need to take this into account when evaluating projects.?

Cohesion Fund. Annual report, 1998

The European Parliament adopted the resolution drafted by Carlos RIPOLL Y MARTINEZ DE BEDOYA (EPP/ED, Spain) on the Commission's Annual Report on the Cohesion Fund. Parliament welcomed the results achieved so far in the fields of transport and environment, but repeated its request that greater attention should be paid to sustainable modes of transport including multimodal transport connections and combined transport. Priority should be given during 2000-2006 to investment for facilitating the integration of outlying regions into the trans-European rail network. Parliament considers that substantial investment is required to deal with treating waste and refuse, and incentives for using the most environmentally-friendly and efficient technology should be provided. Parliament called for consistency between structural policies and the Cohesion Fund through the incorporation of the actions financed by means of the Cohesion Fund into Structural Fund regional planning. In general, Parliament declared itself satisfied with the report and the contribution made by the Cohesion Funds. The Commission is congratulated on the efficient use of the special budget line, initiated by Parliament, for information and publicity measures to encourage environmental practice in pursuit of a policy geared to sustainable development.?