


Procedure file

Basic information		
INI - Own-initiative procedure	2000/2100(INI)	Procedure completed
The future of the biotechnology industry		
Subject 3.50.08 New technologies; biotechnology		

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	ITRE Industry, External Trade, Research, Energy		19/04/2000
		PPE-DE PURVIS John	
	Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
	JURI Legal Affairs and Internal Market	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
	ENVI Environment, Public Health, Consumer Policy		12/07/2000
	GUE/NGL SJÖSTEDT Jonas		
AGRI Agriculture and Rural Development		13/09/2000	
	ELDR PESÄLÄ Mikko		

Key events			
19/05/2000	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
27/02/2001	Vote in committee		Summary
27/02/2001	Committee report tabled for plenary	A5-0080/2001	
15/03/2001	Debate in Parliament		
15/03/2001	Decision by Parliament	T5-0153/2001	Summary
15/03/2001	End of procedure in Parliament		
05/12/2001	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2000/2100(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	ITRE/5/12780

Documentation gateway

Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading	A5-0080/2001	27/02/2001	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading	T5-0153/2001 OJ C 343 05.12.2001, p. 0205-0292	15/03/2001	EP	Summary

The future of the biotechnology industry

The committee adopted the by John PURVIS (EPP-ED, UK) on the future of the biotechnology industry in the EU. The committee was critical of government measures to block or delay authorisation of genetically modified (GM) products for reasons not based on objective scientific opinion. It believed that the European Food Safety Authority should restore consumer confidence and reduce international disputes and that it should have overall responsibility for the approval of GM products. At the same time, the committee called for obligatory mutagenicity, carcinogenicity and toxicity tests to be carried out on transgenic foods before they were placed on the market. The report also stressed the importance of informing the public about safety checks and the extent of any risk. It emphasised the right of EU citizens to information about food products and called on the Commission to lay down more comprehensive rules on labelling of GM organisms and to allow "de minimis exceptions" only where these were technically unavoidable. The committee called on the Commission and the Member States to support research into biotechnological applications offering clear social or environmental benefits such as the development of genetically modified micro-organisms for use in water purification, soil restoration, replacing dangerous chemicals currently in use, and developing sustainable and environmentally friendly energy sources including biogas, hydrogen and ethanol. It believed that biotech applications could help reduce agricultural, environmental and health problems in developing countries and therefore considered that these countries should be encouraged to develop their own biotech industries. The report also backed the principle of involving developing countries in the establishment of priorities for relevant EU research programmes and in trade debates. Finally, the committee called on Member States and the Commission to organise public fora on biotechnology in order to discuss issues relating to biotechnology in such a way that all viewpoints were respected.?

The future of the biotechnology industry

The European Parliament adopted by 254 votes to 105 with 49 abstentions an own-initiative report by Mr John PURVIS (EPP/ED, UK) on the future of the biotechnology industry in the EU. (Please refer to the previous text). ?