

Procedure file

Basic information		
COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic)	2000/2275(COS)	Procedure completed
Employment policy: European strategy for developing at local level		
Subject 4.15.02 Employment: guidelines, actions, Funds		

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	EMPL Employment and Social Affairs		21/06/2000
		PSE GHILARDOTTI Fiorella	
	Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
Council of the European Union European Commission	RETT Regional Policy, Transport and Tourism	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
	Commission DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion	Commissioner	

Key events			
07/04/2000	Non-legislative basic document published	COM(2000)0196	Summary
07/11/2000	Vote in committee		Summary
07/11/2000	Committee report tabled for plenary	A5-0341/2000	
29/11/2000	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
30/11/2000	Decision by Parliament	T5-0530/2000	Summary
30/11/2000	End of procedure in Parliament		
13/08/2001	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2000/2275(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

Documentation gateway

Non-legislative basic document		COM(2000)0196	07/04/2000	EC	Summary
Committee of the Regions: opinion		CDR0187/2000 OJ C 022 24.01.2001, p. 0013	20/09/2000	CofR	
Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report		CES1215/2000 OJ C 014 16.01.2001, p. 0063	19/10/2000	ESC	
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A5-0341/2000 OJ C 228 13.08.2001, p. 0005	07/11/2000	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T5-0530/2000 OJ C 228 13.08.2001, p. 0016-0128	30/11/2000	EP	Summary

Employment policy: European strategy for developing at local level

PURPOSE : to present a communication from the Commission which has the aim of stimulating a wider debate on the issue of strengthening the local dimension of the European Employment Strategy. **CONTENT** : there is a growing awareness of the opportunities that exist at local level for developing employment. This has led most Member States to trigger institutional and administrative decentralisation processes in their employment policies, so bringing decision-making levers closer to the local communities and their needs. In the same way, it has led the European Union to support a variety of experimental work, building on the concept of the "Local Development and Initiatives" (or LDEIs) and to experiment with methodologies and instruments for supporting local employment development, such as the Territorial Employment Pacts, and the "3rd System" and the "Local Social Capital" pilot action. The European Employment Strategy has so far relied essentially on efforts at national, and to a lesser extent, regional levels. However, the emphasis on local issues has been strengthened in the Guidelines for 2000, and, reflecting the same concerns, the local development of employment is now a horizontal priority in the new ESF Regulation, as well as being reflected in other strands of the Community's structural policies. The question thus arises as to how, and how far, the European Employment Strategy should integrate these movements towards greater respect for and autonomy at the local level, and in what way could it support them. Furthermore, the purpose of this communication is: - to summarise developments which have led Member States and the EU to turn increasingly to the local level for job growth; - to consider how the various players at the local level - including local authorities, businesses, etc - but also those at higher levels whose actions influence what can be done locally - state and regions, even the EU itself in the areas where it has competence - can help job creation/job maintenance at local level; - and finally, to raise a number of questions for debate over the 6 month period from April to October 2000. This communication is addressed at the Union's institutions; and the Commission looks forward with interest to receiving their opinions. In addition, the Commission will organise a wider-scale consultation with the players concerned, structures through a series of conferences. It should be stressed that this paper in no way implies that the Commission will be launching a new separate programme on local development; financing from the EU level is already available in all areas covered in this document through Structural Funds and EAGGF-Guarantee in the field of rural development policy. In conclusion, there is an increasing interest in action at local level to stimulate employment, and secondly, the existence of a number of factors which can help local action to play its full part in increasing the Employment Rate in Europe, and providing stable, good quality jobs. The wide range of authorities and bodies mentioned here (national, regional and local governments; enterprises; thirdsystem/social economy organisations; the social partners; and devolved public institutions such as the public employment services) demonstrates both the need for co-ordination in such activities and the fact that integrated approaches are essential within each country, each region, each locality. All players, at all levels, have responsibilities and must contribute.?

Employment policy: European strategy for developing at local level

The committee adopted the report by Fiorella GHILDARDOTTI (PES, I) welcoming the Commission communication as a practical tool for those working on the ground. It approved of the proposal to increase references to local initiatives in the employment guidelines and regretted that the European employment strategy was not yet sufficiently known at regional and local level. The Commission's involvement of the municipal authorities when drafting its paper was seen as a positive step. The committee felt that this process should be further developed in order to create cohesion between the relevant local and regional authorities - who had a key role in promoting local employment - and the work of the EU institutions, thereby maximising the impact upon job creation. It suggested that such authorities should occasionally hold joint conferences of regions and cities and set up coordination units at all levels to ensure that their action was compatible with job creation. The report also welcomed the fact that the new generation of Structural Funds supported local initiatives and established risk capital schemes for social purposes, but regretted that funding for innovative approaches had been cut. Greater efforts were needed to encourage businesses to become involved in innovative initiatives at local level. SMEs in particular had a crucial role to play in implementing local employment strategies, and large businesses could also make a vital contribution to a local strategy, for example by sponsoring other companies. The committee called for Internet sites to be set up and operated at local level to match the demand for jobs with supply in given regions. It also urged Member States to make use of experimental initiatives undertaken by the social partners in predetermined areas suffering severe socio-economic hardship and to support the development of the "third system" to facilitate new forms of entrepreneurship and links between public and private sectors.?

Employment policy: European strategy for developing at local level

The European Parliament has adopted the report by Mrs Fiorella GHILARDOTTI (PES, I). The Parliament welcomes the Commission's intention to upgrade local employment initiatives as part of the EU's strategy to combat unemployment. Member States are urged to promote such initiatives and encourage local business and voluntary organisations. It is hoped that some 55,000 jobs will be created. (Refer to previous document). (Procedure without report).?