


Procedure file

Basic information		
INI - Own-initiative procedure	2000/2162(INI)	Procedure completed
Increased cooperation		
Subject 8 State and evolution of the Union		

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	AFCO Constitutional Affairs		06/07/2000
		PPE-DE GIL-ROBLES GIL-DELGADO José María	
	Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
	LIBE Citizens' Freedoms and Rights, Justice and Home Affairs	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
	JURI Legal Affairs and Internal Market	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	

Key events			
08/09/2000	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
12/10/2000	Vote in committee		Summary
12/10/2000	Committee report tabled for plenary	A5-0288/2000	
24/10/2000	Debate in Parliament		
25/10/2000	Decision by Parliament	T5-0467/2000	Summary
25/10/2000	End of procedure in Parliament		
12/07/2001	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2000/2162(INI)
Procedure type	INI - Own-initiative procedure
Procedure subtype	Initiative
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 54
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed

Documentation gateway

Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A5-0288/2000 OJ C 197 12.07.2001, p. 0008	12/10/2000	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T5-0467/2000 OJ C 197 12.07.2001, p. 0112-0190	25/10/2000	EP	Summary

Increased cooperation

The committee adopted the own-initiative report by José María GIL-ROBLES (EPP-ED, E) on closer cooperation. The report argued that closer cooperation should be further developed within the Union framework, while preserving a single institutional framework with the full participation of all MEPs and all members of the Commission. The Commission's right of initiative, full involvement by Parliament and judicial review by the Court of Justice should be the rule for all closer cooperation. The rapporteur also proposed that to the requirement that closer cooperation should only be used as a last resort be added a ban on using it in cases where the Treaties already provide for decisions to be taken by qualified majority voting (QMV). Common foreign and security policy, as well as defence policy, should be included in the scope of closer cooperation. In line with the resolution of 13 April, the report said a minimum of one third of Member States should be needed to embark on a closer cooperation procedure. However it pointed out that the more states take part, the better the guarantee that any such move was a response to a widely agreed need rather than being in the interests of a small group. As regards the procedure for starting a closer cooperation exercise, the committee wanted the right of veto currently available to any Member State to be abolished. The procedure for launching closer cooperation, like that for enabling any other state to join at a later stage, should be the same for all the pillars, namely: an initial proposal by the Commission, assent by Parliament and decision by the Council by QMV. The option of referring the decision to the European Council should be abolished, or else the need for a unanimous decision by the latter should be replaced by a QMV decision. The rapporteur added that any Member State must have the right to join an existing closer cooperation procedure at any time, and argued that the conditions for joining the procedure at a later date should therefore be laid down at the time the initial decision was taken. Lastly, the report said, where enlargement was concerned, the instrument of transitional arrangements should be used in preference to closer cooperation. ?

Increased cooperation

The European Parliament adopted a resolution on closer cooperation, based on Mr Jose Maria Gil-ROBLES Gil-DELGADO's (EPP-ED,E) report. MEPs voted 408 to 63 with 57 abstentions. In adopting the resolution, the European Parliament stated that when instituting closer cooperation, it is essential to respect the principle of budgetary unit. The Union budget must provide a structure incorporating revenue and expenditure to permit entering of the expenditure incurred; such appropriations should not be counted under the threshold for own resources and the financial perspective. Lastly, the implementing arrangements could be defined in the context of a new interinstitutional agreement and the revision of the Financial Regulation. ?