

Procedure file

Basic information	
COD - Ordinary legislative procedure (ex-codecision procedure) Decision	2000/0195(COD) Procedure completed
Employment: Community incentive measures Amended by 2003/0303(COD)	
Subject 4.15.02 Employment: guidelines, actions, Funds	

Key players				
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed	
	DELE EP Delegation to Conciliation Committee		09/11/2001	
		ELDR JENSEN Anne E.		
	Former committee responsible			
	EMPL Employment and Social Affairs		17/05/2000	
		ELDR JENSEN Anne E.		
	EMPL Employment and Social Affairs		17/05/2000	
	ELDR JENSEN Anne E.			
Former committee for opinion				
BUDG Budgets			14/09/2000	
	PPE-DE RÜBIG Paul			
FEMM Women's Rights and Equal Opportunities			14/09/2000	
	PPE-DE AVILÉS PEREA María Antonia			
Council of the European Union	Council configuration	Meeting	Date	
	Economic and Financial Affairs ECOFIN	2424	07/05/2002	
	Agriculture and Fisheries	2404	21/01/2002	
	General Affairs	2362	25/06/2001	
	Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs	2313	27/11/2000	
European Commission	Commission DG	Commissioner		
	Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion			

Key events			
20/07/2000	Legislative proposal published	COM(2000)0459	Summary
04/09/2000	Committee referral announced in		

	Parliament, 1st reading		
27/11/2000	Debate in Council	2313	
24/01/2001	Vote in committee, 1st reading		Summary
24/01/2001	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading	A5-0018/2001	
13/02/2001	Debate in Parliament		
14/02/2001	Decision by Parliament, 1st reading	T5-0081/2001	Summary
27/02/2001	Modified legislative proposal published	COM(2001)0124	Summary
25/06/2001	Council position published	08432/1/2001	Summary
05/07/2001	Committee referral announced in Parliament, 2nd reading		
09/10/2001	Vote in committee, 2nd reading		Summary
09/10/2001	Committee recommendation tabled for plenary, 2nd reading	A5-0319/2001	
23/10/2001	Debate in Parliament		
23/10/2001	Decision by Parliament, 2nd reading	T5-0542/2001	Summary
21/01/2002	Parliament's amendments rejected by Council		
26/02/2002	Formal meeting of Conciliation Committee		
26/02/2002	Final decision by Conciliation Committee		Summary
03/04/2002	Joint text approved by Conciliation Committee co-chairs	3609/2002	
03/04/2002	Report tabled for plenary, 3rd reading	A5-0111/2002	
24/04/2002	Debate in Parliament		
25/04/2002	Decision by Parliament, 3rd reading	T5-0198/2002	Summary
07/05/2002	Decision by Council, 3rd reading		
10/06/2002	Final act signed		
10/06/2002	End of procedure in Parliament		
29/06/2002	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2000/0195(COD)
Procedure type	COD - Ordinary legislative procedure (ex-codecision procedure)
Procedure subtype	Legislation
Legislative instrument	Decision
	Amended by 2003/0303(COD)
Legal basis	EC Treaty (after Amsterdam) EC 129

Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	CODE/5/15414

Documentation gateway

Legislative proposal	COM(2000)0459 OJ C 337 28.11.2000, p. 0242 E	20/07/2000	EC	Summary
Committee of the Regions: opinion	CDR0310/2000 OJ C 144 16.05.2001, p. 0030	13/12/2000	CofR	
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading	A5-0018/2001	24/01/2001	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading	T5-0081/2001 OJ C 276 01.10.2001, p. 0053-0145	14/02/2001	EP	Summary
Modified legislative proposal	COM(2001)0124 OJ C 180 26.06.2001, p. 0182 E	27/02/2001	EC	Summary
Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report	CES0233/2001 OJ C 139 11.05.2001, p. 0030	28/02/2001	ESC	
Council position	08432/1/2001 OJ C 301 26.10.2001, p. 0014	25/06/2001	CSL	Summary
Commission communication on Council's position	SEC(2001)1094	29/06/2001	EC	Summary
Committee recommendation tabled for plenary, 2nd reading	A5-0319/2001	09/10/2001	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, 2nd reading	T5-0542/2001 OJ C 112 09.05.2002, p. 0029-0114 E	23/10/2001	EP	Summary
Commission opinion on Parliament's position at 2nd reading	COM(2001)0730	29/11/2001	EC	Summary
Joint text approved by Conciliation Committee co-chairs	3609/2002	03/04/2002	CSL/EP	
Report tabled for plenary by Parliament delegation to Conciliation Committee, 3rd reading	A5-0111/2002	03/04/2002	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, 3rd reading	T5-0198/2002 OJ C 131 05.06.2003, p. 0016-0113 E	25/04/2002	EP	Summary
Follow-up document	COM(2008)0328	30/05/2008	EC	Summary
Follow-up document	SEC(2008)1939	30/05/2008	EC	

Additional information

European Commission	EUR-Lex
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Final act

Decision 2002/1145 OJ L 170 29.06.2002, p. 0001-0006 Summary

PURPOSE : to present a proposal for a decision of the European Parliament and of the Council on Community incentive measures in the field of employment. **CONTENT** : the object of this proposal is to put into effect the provisions of Article 129 of the Treaty establishing the European Community, creating the legal base for the expenditure which is required to carry out the activities provided for, and also to develop the activities further in support of the new orientations for the Employment Strategy adopted at the Lisbon European Council. Community incentive measures are designed to encourage cooperation between Member States and to support their action in the field of employment through initiatives aimed at developing exchanges of information and best practices, providing comparative analysis and advice as well as promoting innovative approaches and evaluating experiences. This is a necessary operation tool to develop and support the European Employment strategy stipulated in the Employment Title of the TEC (Articles 125-130). Article 2 of the Treaty states that the goals of the Union to reach a high level of employment. The new Employment Title in the Treaty stipulates that Member States and the Community shall work towards developing a co-ordinated strategy for employment and particularly for promoting a skilled, trained and adaptable workforce and labour markets responsive to economic change. The European Council at Lisbon agreed a new strategic goal for the Union of becoming a competitive and dynamic knowledge-based economy, capable of sustainable economic growth, with more and better jobs and greater social cohesion. This new strategy aims to enable the Union to re-establish the conditions for full employment. The European Council has also agreed to hold an annual spring summit devoted to economic and social questions, and asked the Commission to draw up an annual synthesis report for this meeting on progress towards the strategic goal. This proposal aims to contribute to fulfilling the new strategic goal set up at Lisbon. It will build on the other aspects of the implementation of the Employment Title as well as on the experience gained from the work carried out under the Council Decision of 23 February 1998 on Community activities on research and communication in the field of employment. It will involve the mainstreaming of equal opportunities in the field of employment, which is one of the four pillars of the employment strategy. The financial reference amount for the implementation of the Community activities for the period 1 January 2001 to 31 December 2005 shall be EUR 55 million.?

Employment: Community incentive measures

The committee adopted the report by Anne Elisabeth JENSEN (ELDR, DK) amending the proposal under the codecision procedure (first reading). The report pointed out the need to make the European Employment Strategy accessible and transparent to the general public, by ensuring, for example, that the annual employment report and the reports on the situation of women on the labour market were made available to the public. It also called for a quantitative and qualitative evaluation of the effects of the employment strategy, an analysis of the need to tailor the employment strategy to general economic policy and studies on the transferability of the strategy as a method to other policy areas. It also emphasised the need to have gender-specific analysis of the factors underlying employment trends. In order to consolidate the employment strategy at local and regional level, the committee suggested that part of the appropriations provided should be targeted at promotion of cooperation, improvement of knowledge, exchange of information and best practices and evaluation of experience in implementing National Action Plans for employment at local and regional level. It also highlighted the need to guarantee consistency and complementarity with other Community measures and initiatives. This could be spelled out by a reference to the specific measures in the annual plans of activities. Lastly, the committee called for more funds for the implementation of activities. It was in favour of a global amount of EUR 65m instead of EUR 55m as proposed by the Commission. ?

Employment: Community incentive measures

The European Parliament adopted the report by Mrs Anne Elisabeth JENSEN (ELDR, DK). (Please refer to the previous document).?

Employment: Community incentive measures

The reference to cooperation and information exchanges between Member States as a strength of the Employment strategy has been emphasised. The role of the European Parliament in European employment policy is clarified. A series of amendments relate to the role of the social partners and relevant local and regional authorities. These relate to the way in which Member States cooperate with them and how they implement an active information policy; in relation to evaluation of the National Action Plans. The methods for pursuing such an active information policy have been specified. The accessibility of the general public to this evaluation and the Joint employment report is clarified. A specific focus on analysis of the local employment dimension of the Employment strategy has been introduced. The relationship between this programme and other Community programmes has been made clearer, in particular avoiding the subordination of the Employment strategy to general economic policy. In addition, those programmes which are particularly relevant here have been mentioned specifically. These amendments also recognised the need for a quantitative evaluation of the effects of the European employment strategy. The gender specific elements of the programmes have been strengthened, while avoiding duplication and too much detail on specific projects, with a reference to particular elements of equal opportunity policy which are relevant. ?

Employment: Community incentive measures

The Council broadly endorsed the Commission's amended proposal and accepted the majority of the European Parliament's amendments. Those accepted include: - amendments relating to the Luxembourg process and to the involvement of the social partners and local and regional authorities. - amendments aimed at making the general public more aware of the strategy and measures involved - the amendment concerning the assessment of the European Employment Strategy. Certain amendments were rejected and in particular, the amendments concerning participation by the Parliament. The Council states that interinstitutional relations with Parliament are governed by the TEC. The Council has dropped the financial reference amount to EUR 50 million. It noted that the Commission had calculated the proposed amount on the basis of actual needs as well as ability of those involved in the management of human and physical resources to effect the expenditure. The amount adopted by the Council also takes into account the actual amount spent under the previous Decision, which was less than the financial reference amount originally set. ?

Employment: Community incentive measures

The Commission considers that the Council's common position maintains the main policy features of the proposed Decision. Adaptations to the text, however, now emphasise the importance of contributions from the social partners and actors at regional and local levels. They also underline the objective of providing that gender considerations should appropriately inform the delivery of the programme, and that more intensive efforts be made to promote and publicise the European Employment Strategy. In relation to implementation, the Commission accepts the change from purely advisory committee to partly management committee. The Commission regrets the decision of the Council on the financial reference amount. This amount is inadequate. EUR 55 million is required to carry out the activities to be funded.

Employment: Community incentive measures

The committee adopted the report by Anne Elisabet JENSEN (ELDR, DK) amending the common position under the codecision procedure (second reading). The committee wanted to increase the financing of the incentive measures to EUR 65 million from the EUR 50 million proposed by the Council and to provide funds for involving local and regional levels more closely in the employment strategy. It also called for specific information measures to make ordinary people more aware of the employment strategy.

Employment: Community incentive measures

In approving the resolution by Mrs Anne Elisabet JENSEN (ELDR, DK), the European Parliament voted to increase the EU's fund for job creation measures for 2002 from EUR 50 million to EUR 65 million. Parliament also wants to see local and regional authorities play a more active role in the employment strategy. ?

Employment: Community incentive measures

The Commission can accept nine of the 14 amendments proposed by Parliament on second reading. These include: - the provision that the implementation of an active and transparent information policy on the European Employment Strategy will take into account the requirements of European citizens. - support for evaluation of National Action Plans for Employment will include assessment of how social partners and local and regional authorities may be more fully involved in their implementation. - evaluation of the effects of the European Employment Strategy will include assessment of the methodology which it uses. - the Commission may have access to technical and/or administrative assistance, as well as to support expenditure, to implement effectively the activities which comprise this programme of incentive measures. - activities to be undertaken will have special regard to the plight of persons on the labour market who experience a combination of disadvantages in their efforts to access employment. The aspect of the amendment requiring studies to be undertaken on support services for those responsible for children is not acceptable as this is undertaken elsewhere. Those amendments not acceptable include: - the provision for a budget of EUR 65 million, as against the EUR 55 million proposed by the Commission, which is considered to be sufficient. - the designation of budgetary resources for undertaking pilot projects is not acceptable, as this is outside the scope of the programme. - the provision for an advisory committee to oversee the programme. While such a committee was proposed by the Commission, it is now persuaded by the case which has been made for a combination of an advisory and management committee procedure, as provided for in the Common Position text.?

Employment: Community incentive measures

The Conciliation Committee reached agreement on the text of the decision on Community incentive measures in the field of employment. The main points of the compromise were as follows: - provision was made for specific information measures to increase the general awareness of the European Employment Strategy. Furthermore, all relevant documents including the national action plans on employment and their evaluations will have to be accessible to the general public; - regional and local actors will be kept abreast of the strategy. In addition, at local and regional level, there will be exchanges of experience, studies into any innovative measures and other steps to ensure implementation of the strategy. In a declaration attached to the agreement, the Commission underlined the importance of innovative measures under Article 6 of the European Social Fund (ESF) in order to implement the European Employment Strategy at local level. The Commission will ensure the necessary synergies with the ESF and keep the European Parliament informed of the priorities chosen; - regarding the budget for the programme, the two sides reached a compromise providing for the funding to be increased from the EUR 50 m proposed by the Council to EUR 55 m. Although at 2nd reading Parliament had proposed that funding be increased to EUR 65m, it accepted this much lower increase in the context of the overall package. ?

Employment: Community incentive measures

The European Parliament, following the report from Anne Elisabet JENSEN (ELDR, Denmark) approved the conciliation agreement reached with the Council on EU funding for job creation measures in 2002.?

Employment: Community incentive measures

PURPOSE : to adopt a Decision of the European Parliament and of the Council on Community incentive measures in the field of employment.
COMMUNITY MEASURE : Decision 1145/2002/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on Community incentive measures in the

field of employment. CONTENT : the object of Decision is to put into effect the provisions of Article 129 of the Treaty establishing the European Community, creating the legal base for the expenditure which is required to carry out the activities provided for, and also to develop the activities further in support of the new orientations for the Employment Strategy adopted at the Lisbon European Council. Community activities concerning analysis, research and cooperation among the Member States in the field of employment and the labour market shall be carried out in the period from 1 January 2002 to 31 December 2006. The financial framework for implementing the Community activities referred to in this Decision shall be EUR 55 million. The objectives of these activities are: - to underpin a coordinated approach to employment policy in the Community within the overall aim of raising the employment rate set out by the European Council at Lisbon; - to contribute to the development of the coordinated strategy for employment through the analysis, monitoring and support of actions carried out in the Member States, with due regard for the latter's responsibilities in this field; - to develop, follow up and evaluate the European Employment Strategy with a strong forward-looking emphasis; - to foster cooperation between Member States in analysis, research and monitoring of labour market policy; - to identify best practices and promote exchanges and transfers of information and experience; - to develop the approach and contents of the European Employment Strategy, including ways of cooperating with the social partners and relevant local and regional authorities, and - to implement an active information policy responding to the public's need for transparency and recognising the importance of ensuring that European citizens can be fully informed on all aspects of the European Employment strategy. This is achieved in particular by specific information measures to increase the general awareness of the European Employment Strategy and by making the Employment Package including the national action plans on employment, and their evaluations as presented in the Joint Employment Report, accessible to the general public, notably through the use of internet facilities. The analysis in the context of these activities shall to the maximum possible extent be gender specific. In addition, the Community measures shall cover the following activities: - analysis and evaluation of employment trends and framework policy conditions; prospective analysis on policy areas of importance to the Commission and Member States for the assessment of policy options and the impact of Community policies; forward analysis and research of new policy issues arising in the development of the coordinated strategy for employment; - providing support for Member States' efforts in evaluating in a consistent and coordinated manner their National Action Plans for Employment; - a quantitative and qualitative evaluation of the effects of the European Employment Strategy in general, including assessment of the effectiveness of the methodology used, and analysis of the consistency between the European Employment Strategy and general economic policy, as well as other policy areas; - bringing together and exchanging experience in the Member States, including the peer review process, in terms of both the pillars and individual guidelines; - monitoring of the European Employment Strategy in the Member States, in particular through the European Employment Observatory; - technical and scientific work needed to underpin the development of common quantitative and qualitative indicators, improving and completing statistics, benchmarking performances and the exchange of information on best practices; - supporting the input of presidencies of the Council of the European Union in order to create a special focus on priority elements of the European Employment Strategy and on special events of high international importance or of general interest to the Community and the Member States. It should be noted that particular attention will be given to people experiencing a combination of disadvantages which inhibit their prospects of participating actively on the labour market. In addition, efforts shall be made to mainstream the principle of gender equality, in particular with regard to equal opportunities for men and women in employment and labour markets and to reconciling working life and family life. The activities aimed at promoting cooperation, best practice and innovative approaches, improving knowledge, developing an exchange of information and evaluating the experience in implementing the National Action Plans at all levels, will include: a) studies on all innovative approaches and measures relating to the implementation of the Employment strategy including at local and regional level; b) the exchange of experiences to promote best practices including at local and regional level; c) studies on measures to encourage local and regional partners in the implementation of the European Employment Strategy; d) dissemination of the results of the abovementioned studies on the implementation of the European Employment Strategy including at local and regional levels. As regards the participation of third countries, the activities which may be open to participation by the countries of the EEA, the CEECs, Cyprus, Malta and Turkey, and Mediterranean countries which are partners of the European Union shall be defined in the context of the European Union's relations with those countries. There shall be a number of measures necessary for the implementation of this Decision such as the general guidelines for the implementation of the activities and the annual plan of work; the breakdown of funding between measures; the Commission proposals for selection criteria for financial support; the criteria for assessing activities receiving such support, and the procedure for disseminating and transferring the results. Lastly, the Commission shall identify performance indicators for the actions, monitor achievement of interim results, and carry out independent evaluations in the third year (mid-term) and early during the last year (ex-post) of the activities. The evaluations shall assess in particular the impact achieved and the efficiency of the use of resources, and provide decision-oriented recommendations for adjustments and the eventual extension of the activities. The Commission shall submit an interim report on the results of the activities by 31 December 2004 at the latest, and a final report by 31 December 2007 at the latest. It shall incorporate into these reports information on Community financing within the framework of the activities and on consistency and complementarity with other relevant programmes, actions and initiatives, as well as the relevant evaluation results. ENTRY INTO FORCE : 29 June 2002.?

Employment: Community incentive measures

In accordance with provisions set out in the 'Employment Incentives Measures' or EIM Decision, the Commission is expected to prepare a final report on activities carried out under the programme. To recall, the purpose of the EIM programme is to offer support to the Member States in the field of employment and the labour market.

Over the whole period, more than 150 projects have been funded. Activities can be grouped into: statistical work and support for the development of indicators; analysis and research, analysis of trends and challenges including forward-looking issues; policy assessment and evaluation; exchange of best practice and cooperation between Member States at all levels; exchange of best practices between the Member States; information and awareness raising; the European Year of Workers Mobility 2006; promoting Local Employment Development (LED); and evaluation of the EIM programme.

Statistical work and development of indicators: statistical instruments, used for the EES, were developed throughout the entire programme period. Most of the statistical work concerning the labour market (LM) was carried out by Eurostat. Financial support was granted to national statistical offices and other EU institutions. This allowed two main objectives to be met: it has improved the quality of LM statistics through the development of existing databases and surveys; and it has made data available in domains where previously they were unavailable. Since the adoption of the EIM Decision, the Commission has become a leading data provider.

Analysis and research: analysis has focused on conditions for creating more and better jobs as well as the EU's employment potential. Prospective analysis and studies were carried out in order to help understand the functioning of the European LM and in order to underpin the

long-term development of the European Employment Strategy (EES) by identifying potential new issues and challenges. Such issues include: Active Labour Market Policies (ALMP) and making work pay; health and quality in work; skills and human capital; disadvantaged groups; enlargement; restructuring; migration; and business dynamics and employment performance.

Exchange of best practice: the Mutual Learning Programme (MLP), which was launched in 2004 in order to make better use of exchanging good practice, builds on the Peer Review Programme from 1999 by focusing on priority themes. Under the EIM best practice concentrated on promoting 'Public Employment Services' (PES), which resulted in an improved quality of service for job seekers and employers as well as tackling skills bottlenecks on the European LMs.

Information and awareness-raising: there was a strong emphasis on the need to implement an active and transparent information policy in order to raise the profile of the EES across Europe. EIM initiatives, mostly studies, were given considerable support. As from 2003 annual Calls for Proposals were launched in order to promote joint information actions in support of EES dissemination and awareness-raising initiatives. These initiatives provided general information on the EES as well as highlighting the interplay between European policies and employment policies at national, regional and local levels. In addition several seminars, workshops, conferences and other major events were organised in order to disseminate EIM activity results.

European Year of Workers' Mobility (EWM): in 2006, the year of European Workers' Mobility, over 2000 awareness events were organised. One of the most notable events included the first European job fair. This drew around 200 000 participants to 230 European cities where employers, workers and jobseekers could be in direct contact with each other.

Local Employment Development (LED): creating jobs at a local level was supported by the EIM programme and partnerships encouraged.

Participation of non-EU countries: the Commission helped support the candidate countries to streamline their employment policies with those of the EU's Lisbon Agenda. A gradual participation of all candidate countries in EIM activities took place as from 2003, including participation on the EIM committee, seminars and conferences. This has allowed the new Member States to fully integrate into the EES.