





Procedure file

Basic information			
COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic)		2001/2005(COS)	Procedure completed
Extractive industry: safe operation of mining activities, follow-up to recent accidents			
Subject			
3.60.01 Solid fuels, coal mining, mining industry			
3.70.04 Water control and management, pollution of waterways, water pollution			
3.70.09 Transfrontier pollution			
3.70.13 Dangerous substances, toxic and radioactive wastes (storage, transport)			

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	 Environment, Public Health, Consumer Policy		05/12/2000
		GUE/NGL SJÖSTEDT Jonas	
	Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
Council of the European Union European Commission	 Legal Affairs and Internal Market	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
	 Industry, External Trade, Research, Energy		13/02/2001
		PPE-DE ROVSING Christian	
	Commission DG Environment	Commissioner	

Key events			
23/10/2000	Non-legislative basic document published	COM(2000)0664	Summary
18/01/2001	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
18/06/2001	Vote in committee		Summary
18/06/2001	Committee report tabled for plenary	A5-0214/2001	
04/07/2001	Debate in Parliament		
05/07/2001	Decision by Parliament	T5-0412/2001	Summary
05/07/2001	End of procedure in Parliament		
14/03/2002	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2001/2005(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	ENVI/5/13904

Documentation gateway					
Non-legislative basic document		COM(2000)0664	23/10/2000	EC	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A5-0214/2001	18/06/2001	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T5-0412/2001 OJ C 065 14.03.2002, p. 0189-0382 E	05/07/2001	EP	Summary

Extractive industry: safe operation of mining activities, follow-up to recent accidents

PURPOSE: to present a Commission Communication on the safe operation of mining activities: a follow-up to recent mining accidents.

CONTENT: The Danube pollution caused by a cyanide spill following a damburst of a tailings pond in Baia Mare/Romania and an accident that occurred in 1998 in Aznalcollar/Spain where a damburst poisoned the environment of the Coto Donana National park, have increased public awareness of the environmental and safety hazards of mining activities. The Commission has already laid down its policy towards promoting sustainable development in the EU non-energy extractive industry, including metal mining, in its Communication of 3 May 2000. Against this background, the objective of the current Communication, which should be seen in this context, is to give an account of the accidents and to inform the Council and the European Parliament in more detail about some of the actions announced in the previous Communication, focussing on accident prevention in relation to metal mining activities. The objective is to provide an opportunity for the principal stakeholders concerned, notably industry, NGOs, Member States and other interested parties, to give their views on these actions. The Communication was established in close consultation with the Baia Mare Task Force and for factual elements concerning the Baia Mare accident, the paper relies to a large extent on the UNEP/OCHA report, published in March 2000. After providing an account of the different accidents and the follow-up activities, the Communication outlines the current situation with regard to existing Community environmental legislation. It then goes on to state that the recent mining accidents have illustrated a need for a review of Community environmental policy, especially in light of future enlargement. With regard to substantive action, discussions with Member States' experts have started in view of changing the classification of dangerous waste and including these wastes in the Hazardous Waste list (first conclusions are expected for the second half of 2000). Other actions foreseen include amending the Seveso II Directive, an initiative on the management of mining waste and finally, a Best Available Techniques reference document under the Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control Directive.?

Extractive industry: safe operation of mining activities, follow-up to recent accidents

The committee adopted the report by Jonas SJÖSTEDT (EUL/NGL, S) on the Commission communication. Although it endorsed the Commission's aim of amending existing legislation to cover mining activities, including the extension of the Seveso II Directive to cover risks arising from storage and processing activities in mining, and the addition of certain types of mining waste to the EU hazardous waste list, the committee also called for a specific Directive on mining waste. It wanted mining companies to abide by the same basic guidelines and rules irrespective of where they operated and pointed out that mining waste was one of the largest waste streams in the Community and was responsible for 18% of overall waste generation. The committee also stressed that the effects of mining accidents transcend borders and that there are large quantities of unaccounted for mining waste - frequently hazardous and leaking - in the territory of the EU Member States and candidate countries. ?

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The report of Jonas SJOSTEDT (EUL/NGL, S) (see previous document) was adopted by the European Parliament without amendment. It was adopted by 122 votes to 1 with 2 abstentions.?