


Procedure file

Basic information		
COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic)	2001/2057(COS)	Procedure completed
Structural Funds. 11th annual report 1999		
Subject 4.70.01 Structural funds, investment funds in general, programmes		

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	RETT Regional Policy, Transport and Tourism		24/01/2001
		V/ALE NOGUEIRA ROMÁN Camilo	
	Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
	BUDG Budgets		27/02/2001
		PSE PITTELLA Gianni	
	EMPL Employment and Social Affairs		05/12/2000
		PPE-DE AVILÉS PEREA María Antonia	
	PECH Fisheries		23/01/2001
		PPE-DE VARELA SUANZES-CARPEGNA Daniel	
	FEMM Women's Rights and Equal Opportunities		23/01/2001
		PPE-DE KRATSA-TSAGAROPOULOU Rodi	
Council of the European Union European Commission	Commission DG Regional and Urban Policy	Commissioner	

Key events			
13/11/2000	Non-legislative basic document published	COM(2000)0698	Summary
15/03/2001	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
20/06/2001	Vote in committee		Summary
20/06/2001	Committee report tabled for plenary	A5-0247/2001	
19/09/2001	Debate in Parliament		

20/09/2001	Decision by Parliament	T5-0474/2001	Summary
20/09/2001	End of procedure in Parliament		
28/03/2002	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2001/2057(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	RETT/5/14018

Documentation gateway

Non-legislative basic document		COM(2000)0698	13/11/2000	EC	Summary
Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report		CES0714/2001 OJ C 221 07.08.2001, p. 0091	30/05/2001	ESC	
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A5-0247/2001	20/06/2001	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T5-0474/2001 OJ C 077 28.03.2002, p. 0021-0119 E	20/09/2001	EP	Summary
Committee of the Regions: opinion		CDR0184/2001 OJ C 107 03.05.2002, p. 0060	15/11/2001	CofR	

Structural Funds. 11th annual report 1999

PURPOSE: to present the Commission's 11th Annual Report on the Structural Funds (1999). **CONTENT:** This Report describes how the Structural Funds regulations were implemented during 1999, with a particular focus on Objectives 1 to 6 and the Community Initiatives. As the last year of the programming period, 1999 saw the programmes fully implemented. This meant that very few new items of assistance were adopted during the year. In all, only five such items were adopted in 1999 for the various Objectives. These comprised two operational programmes for Objective 1 (regions whose development is lagging behind), one concerning the territorial pacts for employment in Spain, the other a programme to develop ecological buses in Greece. In general, three global grants were adopted in Italy. All together, these five items account for only 0.1% of assistance from the Funds for the period. At the same time, 24 small Community Initiative programmes were also adopted. As in 1997 and 1998, the implementation of appropriations speeded up considerably in 1999, in many cases enough to make up for the backlogs which had accumulated during the early years of the programming period. This was true of both the national initiatives programmes (CSFs/SPDs) and the Community Initiatives. As in 1998, Objective 1 and 3 (combatting unemployment and exclusion) achieved the best implementation rates. Again as in 1998, the Member States which had the best rates of implementation of appropriations were the least prosperous Member States (Spain, Portugal, Ireland) and therefore the main beneficiaries of the Funds. By contrast, the more prosperous countries continued to lag behind in the implementation of payments. The implementation of the Community Initiatives (CIs) also speeded up considerably, partly thanks to the reallocation of finance carried out in 1998. The Commission devoted special efforts in 1999, as it did in previous years, to giving fresh impetus to a number of its activities and priorities. Safeguarding and promoting employment, in particular, continued to be a priority receiving sustained support. A complete review of the national action plans for employment were undertaken and resulted in recommendations to the Member States on how best to honour their commitments. The Commission guidelines on employment adopted in 1998 were expanded in 1999 to include new goals, such as lifelong training, access to the information society, the involvement of the social partners in the organisation of work and the incorporation in the programmes of equal opportunities for men and women. In its resolution on the employment guidelines, the Council stressed the role of the Structural Funds, and particularly the ESF, in achieving the goals of the European Employment Strategy. The regulations governing the Structural Funds in 2000-06 require the Member States to include the employment guidelines and more generally the principles set out in the European Employment Strategy, in their programmes. Following the proposed regulations to govern the Structural Funds which the Commission had drawn up in 1998, 1999 was a crucial year for actual preparations for 2000-06, since it saw the adoption of a large number of decisions. Finally, this year's report looks at measures to promote equality between men and women and more specifically, the improvements made in incorporating this political priority in the Funds' programmes.?

Structural Funds. 11th annual report 1999

The committee adopted the report by Camilo NOGUEIRA ROMAN (Greens/EFA, E) on the Commission's 11th annual report on the Structural Funds (1999). As far as the execution of the budget was concerned, the committee regretted that the Commission did not provide more extensive analysis of the budgetary performance over the whole 1994-1999 period but instead limited itself to a description of the actual out-turn. It was critical of the lack of figures - or explanations - in the report relating to the backlog of outstanding commitments remaining to be paid at the end of the period. It also regretted that, when programming was being carried out, the final evaluation of previous programmes was generally not available. The report then looked at various policy areas under the Funds. On employment, it said that there should be better coordination between structural fund operations and national employment action plans. On gender equality, a prominent theme of the 1999 annual report, the committee felt that the report had failed to provide specific details on access for women to the Structural Funds or the impact of assistance under the Community Initiatives. The Commission was urged to ensure that its future annual reports on the Structural Funds provided a breakdown by gender of data regarding the impact of assistance on employment, education and vocational training, etc. It also called for an integrated policy to promote women's interests, linking the target of 60% female employment by 2010 to the implementation of the Structural Funds and the Cohesion Fund. Other points taken up in the report included the principle of additionality, which was not being fully complied with. The committee regretted the fact that no penalty could be imposed when Member States infringed this principle and called on the Commission to create instruments and rules ensuring that additionality was applied. It also called for the regions, and not the Member States, to be responsible for administering and taking political decisions on the Structural Fund projects that should be implemented within their territorial ambit. Lastly, the committee addressed the question of evaluation and control. It called on the Commission to step up on-the-spot checks by the appropriate inspection bodies and urged the Member States to improve their management and control systems for detecting irregularities. It also felt that there should be a review of Parliament's role, enabling it to be more actively involved in the evaluation and control process, as a guarantor of the European interest alongside the Commission. ?

Structural Funds. 11th annual report 1999

By adopting the report by Mr Camilio NOGUEIRA ROMAN (Greens/ALE, E), the European Parliament acknowledges the efforts of the Commission to provide an overview of the results for the whole 1994-1999 period, but regrets that the Commission does not provide a more extensive analysis of the budgetary performance over the period, but limits itself to a description of the actual out-turn. The Parliament also notes that indirect reference is made to the backlog of outstanding commitments remaining to be paid at the end of the period (*reste à liquider*) and invites the Commission to remedy this situation. It also underlines the lack of quantitative descriptions or detailed explanations in the use of the community initiatives. The Parliament calls for the Funds to have as a policy priority and effect the incorporation of small businesses (creation, expansion, technological equipment, development and innovation, internalisation of markets etc.) by their inclusion in all priority projects of the Community Support Frameworks and their substantial participation in the take-up of such funds. The Parliament is also calling for a more effective policy to promote women's interests in the implementation of the Structural and Cohesion Funds, considering that the objective of gender quality has only partly been taken into account. Special measures should be taken to link the Funds to the 60% target for female employment to be achieved by 2010 and also to deal the large problem of insecure employment. With regard to the enlargement process, the Parliament calls for an immediate start to be made on the determination, on the basis of consultation which should be as wide as possible, of cohesion policy for the period after 2006 with a view to ensuring both continued support for the sectors and regions of the current Member States which will continue to be eligible in an enlarged Union, and specific supplementary cohesion arrangements for the new Member States. The Parliament is dismayed that the principle of additionality, one of the four basic principles underlying the Structural Funds, is not been respected by the Member States. It regrets the fact that no penalty can be imposed when Member States infringe the additionality principle.?