


Procedure file

Basic information		
COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic)	2001/2052(COS)	Procedure completed
Services: internal market strategy		
Subject 2.40 Free movement of services, freedom to provide		

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	JURI Legal Affairs and Internal Market		27/02/2001
		PSE BERGER Maria	
European Parliament	Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
	ECON Economic and Monetary Affairs	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
	ITRE Industry, External Trade, Research, Energy		21/03/2001
		PPE-DE GRÖNFELDT BERGMAN Lisbeth	
Council of the European Union	Council configuration	Meeting	Date
	Competitiveness (Internal Market, Industry, Research and Space)	2451	30/09/2002
European Commission	Commission DG Financial Stability, Financial Services and Capital Markets Union	Commissioner	

Key events			
29/12/2000	Non-legislative basic document published	COM(2000)0888	Summary
15/03/2001	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
18/09/2001	Vote in committee		Summary
18/09/2001	Committee report tabled for plenary	A5-0310/2001	
03/10/2001	Debate in Parliament		
04/10/2001	Decision by Parliament	T5-0511/2001	Summary
04/10/2001	End of procedure in Parliament		
11/04/2002	Final act published in Official Journal		
30/09/2002	Debate in Council	2451	

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2001/2052(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	JURI/5/14552

Documentation gateway					
Non-legislative basic document		COM(2000)0888	29/12/2000	EC	Summary
Committee of the Regions: opinion		CDR0134/2001 OJ C 357 14.12.2001, p. 0065	13/06/2001	CofR	
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A5-0310/2001	18/09/2001	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T5-0511/2001 OJ C 087 11.04.2002, p. 0159-0239 E	04/10/2001	EP	Summary
Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report		CES1472/2001 OJ C 048 21.02.2002, p. 0017	28/11/2001	ESC	
Document attached to the procedure		COM(2002)0441	30/07/2002	EC	Summary

Services: internal market strategy

PURPOSE: to present a Commission Communication on an Internal Market Strategy for Services. **CONTENT:** The Commission seeks to allow services to move across national borders as easy as within a Member State. This Communication sets out a two step approach to achieving this objective. First, within the next 12 months, the Commission will accelerate a number of initiatives in specific problem areas, whilst, in parallel, rigorously analysing the persistent barriers to free movement of services across national frontiers. It will encourage the Council and the Parliament to come to agreement early in 2001 on initiatives already scheduled. Second, in 2002, the Commission will bring forward a further package of initiatives, setting a precise timetable for Member States to dismantle any specific barriers identified from the analyses carried out in the previous twelve months. This package will also comprise of non-legislative supporting measures, and specific or horizontal harmonisation instruments, together with additional legislative measures to dismantle remaining barriers and prevent the emergence of new ones, whilst ensuring a high level of protection of public interest objectives is maintained. The Strategy for Services seeks to tackle the barriers by building on five basic principles: it should be comprehensive; it should make cross-border activities as easy as acting within a Member State; it should ensure business and consumers secure benefit from the new opportunities open to them; it should keep pace with change and finally, it should be coherent with other policies. Against this background, this Communication sets out a two stage strategy: Stage 1 - Actions for 2001: first, within the next 12 months, the Commission will launch a first wave of initiatives of both a legislative and non-legislative nature targeted at particular problem areas. Second, the Commission will also review the existing directives that relate to the free movement of services. Third, a number of non-legislative flanking measures will be brought forward. Fourth, the Council and the European Parliament are called upon to agree a number of major Internal Market initiatives that impact on services. The Commission needs to pave the way for a horizontal approach to free movement of services with a view to its implementation in 2002. For the first time since 1962, the Commission will undertake an all-embracing and systematic analysis of the persistent barriers to free movement of services and their spill-over effects across economic sectors. Stage 2 - Actions for 2002: 2001 is a year for action and analysis. the following year will be a further package of initiatives on the basis of this analysis. These initiatives will take three basic forms: actions to tackle barriers which can be moved by the direct application of the Treaty; actions of a non-legislative nature; and, thirdly, actions that make use of targeted harmonisation to remove barriers. In conclusion, the Commission would welcome comments from interested parties by 1 June 2001.?

Services: internal market strategy

The committee adopted the report by Maria BERGER (PES, A) on the Commission communication. It welcomed the paper as part of the Lisbon strategy for making the EU the world's most competitive knowledge-based economy before the end of this decade, and stressed that a fully functioning internal market in services would help cut costs for businesses and consumers alike and result in greater consumer choice. It warned, however, that the creation of such a market required a political commitment on the part of the Member States, and urged the Commission to make use of its powers under the Treaty to bring proceedings in cases of genuine infringements. The report pointed out that measures were needed to ensure that small businesses played a full part in the internal market, which would give them the opportunity to offer

their services all over the EU more easily and cheaply, as they would not be required to set up costly offices in other Member States or comply with many different national regulatory systems. The committee nevertheless emphasised that, to avoid over-regulation at Community level, harmonisation of national rules should be limited to what was strictly necessary to ensure the free movement of services and freedom of establishment. The Commission was urged to ensure the application, as far as possible, of the mutual recognition of national rules and the country of origin principle. This was particularly important with a view to developing on-line services. Lastly, the report called on the Commission and the Member States to promote innovation in Europe in order to ensure the competitiveness of European services. It also stressed the importance of ensuring that the internal market in services was in place before enlargement. ?

Services: internal market strategy

The European Parliament adopted the resolution by Mrs Maria BERGER (PES, A). The resolution believes that the Commission should, as far as possible, make greater use of the mutual recognition of national rules and of the country of origin principle. This will allow service providers and, in particular, small and medium-sized undertakings, to offer their services all over the EU more easily and on a more cost-effective basis. The harmonisation of the national rules, on the other hand, should be limited to what is strictly necessary to ensure the free movement of services and the freedom of establishment. (Please refer to the previous text). ?