


Procedure file

Basic information		
COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic)	2001/2215(COS)	Procedure completed
Social policy: scoreboard on implementing the agenda		
Subject 4.10 Social policy, social charter and protocol		

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	EMPL Employment and Social Affairs		17/05/2001
		PPE-DE HERMANGE Marie-Thérèse	
Council of the European Union European Commission	Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
	FEMM Women's Rights and Equal Opportunities	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
	Commission DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion	Commissioner	

Key events			
22/02/2001	Non-legislative basic document published	COM(2001)0104	Summary
12/11/2001	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
08/01/2002	Vote in committee		Summary
08/01/2002	Committee report tabled for plenary	A5-0004/2002	
07/02/2002	Debate in Parliament		
07/02/2002	Decision by Parliament	T5-0063/2002	Summary
07/02/2002	End of procedure in Parliament		
21/11/2002	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2001/2215(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	EMPL/5/15366

Documentation gateway

Non-legislative basic document		COM(2001)0104	22/02/2001	EC	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A5-0004/2002	08/01/2002	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T5-0063/2002 OJ C 284 21.11.2002, p. 0209-0346 E	07/02/2002	EP	Summary

Social policy: scoreboard on implementing the agenda

PURPOSE : to present a Communication on the scoreboard on implementing the social policy agenda. **CONTENT** : the Nice European Council endorsed the Social Policy Agenda until 2005. It invited the Commission to present annually a scoreboard outlining the progress made in implementing the Agenda, starting with the first report to be submitted to the Stockholm Summit. The presentation of a scoreboard, a few months after the Agenda's endorsement in Nice, means that a number of initiatives are only at a first stage while some achievements are the result of initiatives launched before the Social Policy Agenda. However, implementation is a dynamic process linking the old to the new, and involving many actors at different levels. Therefore, this dynamic and flexible aspect is reflected in the scoreboard. Despite the early period in the implementation phase of the Social Policy Agenda, significant progress has already been made to put in place concrete policy measures. Through the Social Policy Agenda, the European Union aims to create the context and the framework for economic and social actors to meet the challenge of demographic, technological, economic and social change and to realise Europe's full employment potential and greater social cohesion. The Nice European Council outlined six main social policy orientations, on which the scoreboard now reports: - promoting more and better jobs; - anticipating and capitalising on change in the working environment; - combating poverty; - exclusion and discrimination; - modernising social protection; - promoting gender equality and social policy, in particular for enlargement. ?

Social policy: scoreboard on implementing the agenda

The committee adopted the report by Marie-Thérèse HERMANGE (EPP-ED, F) on the Commission communication. It took the view that the scoreboard should include all activities scheduled for the period 2001-2006, making it possible to check the stage reached in implementing the objectives, but warned that the scoreboard should not be a mere summary record of Commission activities. The aim was for it to make operational those policy initiatives announced in the social policy agenda, which should be based on a dynamic approach enabling continuous adjustments to be made. The European Parliament should be involved in the development of indicators for monitoring and assessing different operations carried out under the agenda. Furthermore, the report reiterated the view that the EP should also have a role in the open method of coordination, and pointed out the importance of involving all the social partners in implementing the social policy agenda. As far as the content of the agenda was concerned, the rapporteur regretted that the Commission had failed to take into consideration any of Parliament's additional requirements set out before the Nice Summit. The report listed, among other things, the need to have a legislative framework for the development of the social economy, the need to integrate the social dimension into competition policy and the need to introduce at European level the right to take collective action. It also called on the Commission to submit a proposal for a directive on social security covering new forms of employment and another proposal concerning individual dismissals. ?

Social policy: scoreboard on implementing the agenda

The European Parliament adopted the resolution by Mrs Marie-Thérèse HERMANGE (EPP-ED, F). However, it regrets that the first scoreboard was, owing to the very tight deadlines, submitted to the Stockholm European Council before Parliament had the opportunity to consider it and it calls on the Commission to forward to Parliament the annual scoreboard in good time for it to deliver an opinion in advance of the spring European Council. It considers that the scoreboard should make operational the policy initiatives announced in the social policy agenda by specifying in respect of each component the relevant policy instrument (legislation, open coordination, negotiations by the social partners, etc), individual or body responsible, and the deadlines fixed. It asks the Commission to adhere systematically to that structure when drawing up its next scoreboard. In addition, the Parliament considers that the social policy agenda should be based on a dynamic approach aimed at making continuous adjustments between objectives laid down and progress achieved. The resolution calls for the European Parliament to be closely involved in the taking of decisions on such indicators and to have the opportunity to play a role in the new coordination processes (including the open method of coordination in the areas of employment, social inclusion, education and training, and pensions) and calls for an interinstitutional agreement to be concluded in this connection. Moreover, it expresses its concern at the lack of progress achieved through the European social dialogue, and hopes that the social partners, and especially employers, will participate more actively in achieving the objectives laid down, including, in particular, in the areas of training and lifelong learning, organisation of work and adjustment to new forms of work and the reconciling of work and private life. Parliament takes the view that the Commission should come forward with legislative instruments whenever negotiations are not concluded within a reasonable period of time. More specifically, it calls on the Commission to supply information on how it proposes to act on those requirements in particular: - to define an appropriate legal basis for the development of the civil dialogue and to provide for the necessary financing to enable the NGOs to contribute to the European social agenda; - to provide a tax and legislative framework for the development of the social economy (third sector); - to integrate the social dimension into competition policy by including considerations related to employment and industrial relations in Commission decisions

concerning mergers of companies; - to put in place at European level the right to take collective action, and in particular the right to strike; - to submit a directive on social security cover for new forms of employment; - to reinforce the action programme and instruments against poverty and social exclusion; - to submit a proposal to amend Directive 92/85/EEC¹ on the introduction of measures to encourage improvements in the safety and the health at work of pregnant workers and workers who have just given birth or are breastfeeding along the lines of the proposals set out in its resolution of 6 July 2002, in particular on the length of maternity leave; - to launch an initiative aimed at better guaranteeing the social quality of work by improving the balance between working life and family life by restructuring working hours on the basis of arrangements to be negotiated between the social partners; - to propose an action plan to give the aged and the disabled access to working life and to the information society, as well as the definition of criteria for recognising a disability; - to take initiatives and submit an action plan designed to effectively prevent musculoskeletal injuries at work; - to take initiatives to provide appropriate safeguards for workers' rights, and notably employment, in the event of the restructuring or relocation of undertakings; - to take initiatives, and notably adopt an action plan, to put into practice equality of pay for men and women; - to submit a proposal concerning individual dismissals; The Commission is called upon to speed up its operations, in particular as regards legislative proposals and preparatory work; calls in particular on the Commission: - to submit a proposal for a review of Directive 94/45/EC on the establishment of a European Works Council or a procedure in Community-scale undertakings and Community-scale groups of undertakings for the purposes of informing and consulting employees as soon as possible so that the legislative procedure can be concluded, as intended, before the end of 2002; - to submit to Parliament a memorandum on policy in the area of health and safety at work; - to submit a communication and an action plan on financial participation by workers in the European Union; - to conduct in-depth examination and assessment of the Luxembourg process; - to propose activities to mark the European year of the disabled (2003). Lastly, it urges that action be taken with regard to the proposed integration of the candidate countries into the open methods of coordination being adopted in the areas of employment, education and training, social inclusion and pensions, and calls on the Commission to submit a report to the Council and Parliament shortly on this matter.?