

Procedure file

Basic information	
COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic)	2001/2188(COS)
Maritime transport: training and recruitment of seafarers	Procedure completed
Subject	
3.15.08 Fishing enterprises, fishermen, working conditions on board	
3.20.10 Transport undertakings, transport industry employees	

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	EMPL Employment and Social Affairs	PPE-DE KAUPPI Pii-Noora	21/06/2001
Council of the European Union			
European Commission	Commission DG Energy and Transport	Commissioner	

Key events			
06/04/2001	Non-legislative basic document published	COM(2001)0188	Summary
22/10/2001	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
04/12/2001	Vote in committee		Summary
04/12/2001	Committee report tabled for plenary	A5-0450/2001	
17/01/2002	Decision by Parliament	T5-0020/2002	Summary
17/01/2002	End of procedure in Parliament		
07/11/2002	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2001/2188(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/5/15247

Documentation gateway					
Non-legislative basic document		COM(2001)0188	06/04/2001	EC	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A5-0450/2001	04/12/2001	EP	
Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report		CES0023/2002 OJ C 080 03.04.2002, p. 0009	16/01/2002	ESC	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T5-0020/2002 OJ C 271 07.11.2002, p. 0072-0426 E	17/01/2002	EP	Summary

Maritime transport: training and recruitment of seafarers

PURPOSE : to present a Communication on the training and recruitment of seafarers. **CONTENT :** with the present Communication, the European Commission wishes to provide an update on the decline in the number of EU seafarers and an analysis of the reasons behind it, the possible implications for the EU shipping community and the measures necessary to reverse it. The Commission is aware that any measure affecting the human element has an impact on the competitive situation of shipowners, but considers that the evaluation of alternative solutions can no longer wait if we want to improve the present worrying situation. Employment and training are two issues for which the Member States have prime responsibility. The Commission does not intend to replace the Member States in this field. However, it wishes to stimulate an urgent and productive discussion on this matter. The Commission has already started to address the problem of the shortfall in the number of EU seafarers. It believes this action needs to be pursued and enhanced through joint action by all the actors concerned, in order to remedy the current worrying situation. It is for this reason that the Commission recommends that the priority actions listed below be addressed. - Proper application of existing Community and international law on living and working conditions and the quality of shipboard operations is a fundamental tool not only for improving safety at sea and preventing pollution, but also for tackling the decline of the seafarer professions. Member States are invited to ensure that such legislation is properly applied; the Commission, for its part, will monitor this process and ensure transparency through Equasis. - Scheduled passenger ferry services within the European Union are labour-intensive, and are served mainly by EU-flagged vessels crewed predominantly by EU nationals. EU seafarers in this sector face increasing competition from cheaper non-EU labour. The Commission proposed a solution to this problem in its Communication of 1998. While discussions on the Commission's proposals continue in the competent fora, different solutions to the same problem might be found in parallel by the social partners by way of a voluntary agreement. - The Commission recommends that the Member States and the social partners organise coordinated awareness campaigns at national and European level to re-launch the image of the shipping industry. - A few simple arrangements, with the support of modern technologies, can significantly improve the living and working conditions on board ship. - Preserving a high-quality system of maritime training in the EU is vital for the survival of EU seafarers, the competitiveness of the European maritime industry and the enhancement of safety and environmental protection. - Community instruments are available for the financial support of maritime training, as are Community initiatives in the field of human resources. The Commission recommends that the Member States and the social partners explore and take advantage of the opportunities offered by these instruments. - The Community may support the industry's effort to reverse the present shortfall of EU seafarers by sponsoring a number of ad hoc research projects through the forthcoming Sixth Framework Programme. ?

Maritime transport: training and recruitment of seafarers

The committee adopted the report by Piia-Noora KAUPPI (EPP-ED, FIN) on the Commission communication on the training and recruitment of seafarers. The report stressed the need to safeguard the employment of EU seafarers, to preserve the maritime know-how in the Community and to improve the safety of maritime transport. This all required adequate training at the outset and continuing professional retraining. The rapporteur pointed out that employment and training of seafarers depended closely on the market conditions of the maritime sector. The Commission should provide an analysis of the underlying economic variables relating to maritime transport and of the technological changes in the sector. The committee agreed that responsibility for actions should be shared between the Community, Member States, social partners and the maritime education and training sector. Member States should take action to tackle the drastic shortage of officers, which was likely to get worse. The Commission was urged to pursue discussions on manning, the use of third-country seafarers and the competition pressures in the scheduled passenger transport and ferry services sector in the EU. The social partners should continue to seek solutions that would prevent social dumping. It was important to ensure that officers and crews of EU and third-country vessels sailing the waters of the EU met the ILO standards for seafarers. The report also called for a declaration applying the European Works Council directive to seafarers. Finally, the report called on Member States and social partners to fully exploit all possibilities of funding for maritime education and training through existing Community instruments. ?

Maritime transport: training and recruitment of seafarers

The European Parliament adopted the resolution by Mrs Piia-Noora KAUPPI (EPP-ED, FIN). (Please refer to the decision of the committee responsible 04/12/01).?