


Procedure file

Basic information		
COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic)	2001/2217(COS)	Procedure completed
Higher education: cooperation with third countries		
Subject 4.40.04 Universities, higher education 4.40.20 Cooperation and agreements in the fields of education, training and youth		

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	CULT Culture, Youth, Education, Media and Sport		18/09/2001
		PPE-DE DE SARNEZ Marielle	
	Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
	AFET Foreign Affairs, Human Rights, Common Security, Defense		16/10/2001
		UEN MUSCARDINI Cristiana	
	BUDG Budgets		
	EMPL Employment and Social Affairs	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
Council of the European Union	Council configuration	Meeting	Date
	Education, Youth, Culture and Sport	2391	29/11/2001
European Commission	Commission DG	Commissioner	
	Education, Youth, Sport and Culture		

Key events			
18/07/2001	Non-legislative basic document published	COM(2001)0385	Summary
12/11/2001	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
29/11/2001	Debate in Council	2391	
19/02/2002	Vote in committee		Summary
19/02/2002	Committee report tabled for plenary	A5-0035/2002	
11/04/2002	Debate in Parliament		
11/04/2002	Decision by Parliament	T5-0183/2002	Summary
11/04/2002	End of procedure in Parliament		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2001/2217(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	CULT/5/15369

Documentation gateway

Non-legislative basic document		COM(2001)0385	18/07/2001	EC	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A5-0035/2002	19/02/2002	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T5-0183/2002 OJ C 127 29.05.2003, p. 0594-0671 E	11/04/2002	EP	Summary

Higher education: cooperation with third countries

PURPOSE : Communication on strengthening cooperation with third countries in the area of higher education. **CONTENT :** In developing its higher education systems the Community must seek to prepare its citizens and its workforce for a global environment by including the international dimension. In addition, there is an increasing demand for international education and student mobility. Community programmes in education, and particularly ERASMUS, have had a substantial impact in boosting the capacity for international cooperation among European universities. A further effort is required at Community level, to encourage institutions systematically to integrate new co-operation with third countries into a wider partnership framework. Two immediate objectives are identified: - develop high quality human resources in partner countries and within the EC, through reciprocal human resource development; - promote the EC as a worldwide centre of excellence for study/training as well as for scientific and technological research. The Community will take the following measures: - use the experience gained in the intra-Community programmes in its relations with third countries. ERASMUS, in particular, has attracted interest and requests to participate from around the world. - provide for diversity in the arrangements with each country and each region. Cooperation will focus on multilateral networks and partnerships involving countries that have achieved a level of development in higher education comparable to that of European institutions. The Commission will encourage the use of accreditation systems, in particular the European Credit Transfer System. It will also extend the network of EU Studies Centres and Jean Monnet Chairs around the world, so as to provide a full service to interested academics. A pilot programme for Latin America will be instituted. This will establish a postgraduate scholarship travel and study programme to allow future decision-makers in Latin America develop closer ties with Europe and foster further links between the two regions. The strategy proposed in this Communication will, whenever possible, be funded within existing programmes and within existing budget allocations. The Commission aims to review the process and possibly make further proposals in 2003.?

Higher education: cooperation with third countries

The committee unanimously adopted the report by Marielle DE SARNEZ (EPP-ED, F) on the Commission communication. The report said that the EU needed to provide high-quality education to boost its competitiveness in the international education market and must try to ensure equal quality of education and reception facilities throughout the European higher education world. To this end MEPs called on the Commission to consider, in conjunction with the European University Association, the introduction of a European 'quality label', to be awarded by a group of international experts and to cover a whole range of transnational teaching modules. Given that language remains an obstacle to mobility, the committee recommended that Member States include foreign language teaching in the form of modules in all higher education courses. However, student mobility was only one aspect of cooperation programmes: exchanges of teaching staff, the creation of joint study programmes and the development of systems for the mutual recognition of study courses and qualifications were also important. The committee called on the EU to promote joint study courses between universities in the Member States, leading to the award of joint qualifications, and in particular asked the Commission to continue improving and promoting the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS). ?

Higher education: cooperation with third countries

The European Parliament adopted a resolution on drafted by Marielle DE SARNEZ (EPP-ED, F) on cooperation with third countries in the field of higher education. (Please refer to the document dated 19/02/02). Parliament felt that the Communication did not provide an adequate analysis of the situation. The goals set and the measures envisaged must be further specified and substantiated. The Commission and the Member States in conjunction with UNESCO and the OECD, should seek to bring the basic definitions and the principal indicators in the higher education sector closer together in order to pursue their cooperation in the field of gathering data concerning international mobility in that

sector. On the promotion of higher education, Parliament considered that until higher education and university courses and university degrees are automatically recognised, there will be no genuine free movement for students and graduates within the EU.?