


Procedure file

Basic information		
COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic)	2001/2181(COS)	Procedure completed
European governance: greater openness and participation. White Paper		
Subject		
8 State and evolution of the Union		
8.10 Revision of the Treaties, intergovernmental conferences		

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	AFCO Constitutional Affairs		24/01/2001
		GUE/NGL KAUFMANN Sylvia-Yvonne	
	Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
	BUDG Budgets		01/10/2001
		PSE GUY-QUINT Catherine	
	CONT Budgetary Control	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
	LIBE Citizens' Freedoms and Rights, Justice and Home Affairs	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
	ECON Economic and Monetary Affairs		09/10/2001
		PPE-DE VON WOGAU Karl	
	JURI Legal Affairs and Internal Market		10/07/2001
		PSE MEDINA ORTEGA Manuel	
	EMPL Employment and Social Affairs	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
	ENVI Environment, Public Health, Consumer Policy		13/09/2001
	PPE-DE JACKSON Caroline		
RETT Regional Policy, Transport and Tourism	The committee decided not to give an opinion.		
CULT Culture, Youth, Education, Media and Sport		18/01/2001	
	PSE O'TOOLE Barbara		
FEMM Women's Rights and Equal Opportunities		01/10/2001	
	PSE THEORIN Maj Britt		
PETI Petitions		10/10/2001	
	PPE-DE GEMELLI Vitaliano		

Council of the European Union	Council configuration	Meeting	Date
	General Affairs	2397	10/12/2001
European Commission	Commission DG	Commissioner	
	Secretariat-General		

Key events

05/07/2001	Non-legislative basic document published	COM(2001)0428	Summary
12/11/2001	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
13/11/2001	Vote in committee		Summary
13/11/2001	Committee report tabled for plenary	A5-0399/2001	
28/11/2001	Debate in Parliament		
29/11/2001	Decision by Parliament	T5-0642/2001	Summary
29/11/2001	End of procedure in Parliament		
10/12/2001	Debate in Council	2397	
27/06/2002	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2001/2181(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	AFCO/5/15216

Documentation gateway

Non-legislative basic document	COM(2001)0428 OJ C 287 12.10.2001, p. 0001	05/07/2001	EC	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading	A5-0399/2001	13/11/2001	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading	T5-0642/2001 OJ C 153 27.06.2002, p. 0040-0314 E	29/11/2001	EP	Summary
Committee of the Regions: opinion	CDR0103/2001 OJ C 192 12.08.2002, p. 0024	13/03/2002	CofR	
Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report	CES0357/2002 OJ C 125 27.05.2002, p. 0061	20/03/2002	ESC	
Non-legislative basic document	COM(2002)0718	01/12/2002	EC	
Non-legislative basic document	COM(2002)0705	11/12/2002	EC	
Non-legislative basic document	COM(2002)0709	11/12/2002	EC	
Supplementary non-legislative basic document	COM(2002)0704	11/12/2002	EC	Summary

Supplementary non-legislative basic document	COM(2002)0713	11/12/2002	EC	
Follow-up document	SEC(2004)1153	22/09/2004	EC	Summary

European governance: greater openness and participation. White Paper

PURPOSE : to propose the White Paper on European Governance. **CONTENT :** Europeans' lack of interest in and distrust of politics and institutions is increasing. The problem is acknowledged at national level, and is particularly acute at the level of the European Union. Many people are losing confidence in a poorly understood and complex system. Yet people also expect the Union to take the lead in responding to environmental challenges, unemployment, concerns over food safety and regional conflicts. The Union must take action to adapt governance under the existing treaties, but also prepare for a broader debate on the future of Europe in view of the next Inter-Governmental Conference. The White Paper proposes opening-up the policy making process to get more people and organisations involved in shaping and delivering EU policy. The Commission makes clear that action is also required from national and local government, EU institutions and civil society. It makes the following proposals: 1) Better involvement and more openness. The Community method must be renewed through following a less top-down approach and complementing the EU's policy tools more effectively with non-legislative instruments. The Commission will provide particularly: - on line information through all decision-making stages; - a more systematic dialogue with regional and local governments at an early stage in shaping policy; - greater flexibility in implementing legislation to take account of regional and local conditions; - the establishment and publication of minimum standards for consultation on EU policy. 2) Better policies, regulation and delivery. The Commission will: - promote greater use of different policy tools; - simplify existing EU law and encourage Member States to simplify the national rules which give effect to EU provisions; - publish guidelines on collection and use of expert advice, so that it is clear what advice is given, where it is coming from, how it is used and the alternative views available. 3) Global governance. The Commission will: - improve dialogue with the governmental and non-governmental actors of third countries when developing policy proposals with an international dimension; - propose a review of the Union's international representation in order to allow it to speak more often with a single voice; 4) Refocused institutions. The EU institutions and Member States must work together to set out an overall policy strategy. The Commission will: - reinforce attempts to ensure policy coherence; - bring forward the next IGC proposals to refocus the Commissions executive responsibilities. The Council must reinforce its capacity to take decisions and cut through different sectoral interests, and should establish a stronger link between EU policy and national action. By assuming its political responsibility under the Community method, the Council would free the European Council to establish and follow long-term strategic orientations. The Council and the European Parliament should focus more on defining the essential elements of policy and controlling the way in which they are executed. The Parliament should enhance its role in feeding into the political debate the views of its electors.?

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The committee adopted the report by Sylvia-Yvonne KAUFMANN (EUL/NGL, D) on the Commission White Paper. It welcomed the Commission's readiness to examine the way in which the Union exercised its powers but made a number of observations on various issues. Firstly, the committee restated its view that the EU's decision-making system needed to be "parliamentarised", on the ground that only regional, national and European institutions with democratic legitimacy could take accountable legislative decisions. On the question of consultation, therefore, 'organised civil society', whilst important, could not be regarded as having its own democratic legitimacy given that representatives were not elected by the people. Only the Council and Parliament could take legislative decisions, although due account should be taken of the opinions of other bodies specified in the Treaties, such as the Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions, which kept the EU institutions in touch with economic and social actors and enabled regional and local authorities to play a greater role in EU policy. The committee also warned that the creation of commonly-agreed consultation standards and practices at EU level should not be tied to any quid pro quo on the part of NGOs because independent and critical public opinion was essential for a vibrant democracy. Autonomous agencies should be used only if specific scientific or technical expertise was required and a decentralised administration seemed appropriate. However, this should not lead to a reduction in expert and judicial scrutiny by the Commission or to any dilution of the Commission's political accountability. There was a need to address the issue of how detailed regulation should be at EU level, particularly given the impending enlargement. Where "framework" directives were used these must be accompanied by adequate mechanisms for democratic control. The committee also stressed that the drafting of an "action plan for better regulation" by working parties at the Council and Commission represented a serious breach of the Community method, since Parliament was neither informed of nor involved in the work of these bodies. MEPs therefore urged the Commission not to submit an action plan of this kind to the Laeken European Council. They also called for an interinstitutional agreement on the question of co-legislation.?

European governance: greater openness and participation. White Paper

The European Parliament adopted the resolution by Sylvia-Yvonne KAUFMANN (EUL/NGL, D) on European governance. (Please refer to the previous document).?

European governance: greater openness and participation. White Paper

This report succeeds the report adopted by the Commission in 2002. It analyses the implementation of the White Paper on European governance. The report presents a positive assessment of the implementation, in 2003 and 2004, of the actions that the Commission had committed to launch during its mandate. These actions concern the following areas: "better regulation", participation of the civil society; impact assessment, acquisition and use of scientific expertise; update and simplification of the Community acquis; regulatory agencies; improvement of the implementation of Community law and its monitoring; regional and local dimension of the Union (permanent dialogue between the Commission and local and regional authorities' associations; target-based tripartite agreements and contracts); refocusing European policies and institutions (including in the framework of the Constitution for Europe); European public sphere. The report notes that practically all the

actions announced by the Commission in 2001 were carried out or are currently underway. The Commission also notes that the continuity of certain ideas and guidelines recommended by the White Paper, such as participative democracy, the dialogue with the regions and the cities, or administrative cooperation between Member States, have been taken into account in the constitutional Treaty.