


Procedure file

Basic information		
COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic)	2001/2279(COS)	Procedure completed
Citizenship of the Union. 3rd report		
Subject 1 European citizenship 1.10 Fundamental rights in the EU, Charter		

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	LIBE Citizens' Freedoms and Rights, Justice and Home Affairs		10/10/2001
		PPE-DE COELHO Carlos	
	Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
	JURI Legal Affairs and Internal Market	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
	CULT Culture, Youth, Education, Media and Sport	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
	AFCO Constitutional Affairs		12/11/2001
		PSE DUHAMEL Olivier	
	FEMM Women's Rights and Equal Opportunities		21/11/2001
		PSE TORRES MARQUES Helena	
Council of the European Union European Commission	PETI Petitions		11/10/2001
		PPE-DE GEMELLI Vitaliano	
	Commission DG Justice and Consumers	Commissioner	

Key events			
07/09/2001	Non-legislative basic document published	COM(2001)0506	Summary
13/12/2001	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
18/06/2002	Vote in committee		Summary
18/06/2002	Committee report tabled for plenary	A5-0241/2002	
04/09/2002	Debate in Parliament		
	Decision by Parliament		Summary

05/09/2002		T5-0402/2002	
05/09/2002	End of procedure in Parliament		
13/11/2003	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2001/2279(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	LIBE/5/15577

Documentation gateway

Non-legislative basic document		COM(2001)0506	07/09/2001	EC	Summary
Document attached to the procedure		B5-0115/2002	14/05/2002	EP	
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A5-0241/2002	18/06/2002	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T5-0402/2002 OJ C 272 13.11.2003, p. 0409-0446 E	05/09/2002	EP	Summary
Committee of the Regions: opinion		CDR0121/2002	21/11/2002	CofR	

Citizenship of the Union. 3rd report

PURPOSE : Third Commission report on Citizenship of the Union. **CONTENT :** The report focuses on the rights provided for in the second part of the EC Treaty. It includes advances in areas closely related to citizenship in the wider sense, such as the protection of fundamental rights, including measures to combat all forms of illegal discrimination. Two texts deserve special mention: 1) The proposed directive on the right of citizens of the Union to move and reside freely within the territory of the Member States. This is a product of the legal and political environment created by the introduction of citizenship of the Union. The principal aim is to replace the various pieces of legislation existing in this area by a single legislative instrument, to relax and simplify the conditions and formalities attached to it, and to clarify restrictions based on public policy, public security and public health. The most important change is that after four years of uninterrupted residence individuals will acquire a permanent right of residence in the host Member State. Once acquired, this right is no longer subject to any conditions. 2) The Charter of Fundamental Rights. The Charter was proclaimed by the three institutions at Nice. It was not incorporated into the Treaties, but its legal status will have to be examined after the public debate to be launched in preparation for the IGC in 2004. Chapter V of the Charter, on citizen's rights, lists the rights that feature in the second part of the EC Treaty. The right to good administration is an innovation introduced by the Charter, drawing on the principles laid down by the Court of Justice. The Commission also deals with the following in this report: -the right to vote and stand as a candidate at elections to the European Parliament and at municipal elections. - the right to diplomatic and consular protection. - the right to petition the European Parliament and right of access to the Ombudsman. - measures to combat racism. - measures to combat discrimination. - public information.?

Citizenship of the Union. 3rd report

The committee adopted the report by Carlos COELHO (EPP-ED, P) on the Commission report on citizenship of the Union. It took the view that the establishment of European citizenship was important to create a sense of adhering to a set of common democratic values and of being involved in the process of the European Union. It added that European citizenship was not a substitute for but rather supplemented and broadened national citizenship through the recognition of a set of rights common to all European citizens. The committee however deplored the continuing obstacles to the exercise of rights ensuing from EU citizenship, including those - which had long been enshrined in Community law - relating to the freedom of movement and residence of persons, and called on the Member States to take steps to remedy the situation. It said that the concept of European citizenship must be resolutely implemented in all of its dimensions - political, administrative, judicial, social and economic. MEPs were particularly concerned about the low level of participation in European elections, which could, if it continued, 'delegitimise' the European Parliament. They therefore urged the EU institutions and the Member States to take measures to make voters more aware of the importance of voting and to ensure optimum conditions for participation in the elections. Member States concerned should place citizens on electoral registers as quickly as possible. The Union also needed to obtain greater legitimacy in the eyes of citizens, respond to their needs, interests and values and function in a spirit of openness and transparency. Thus, the public should be better informed, in

particular about their rights to vote and stand in European elections and their right to petition the EP and to submit complaints to the European Ombudsman. The EU's information policy should be stepped up and targeted as much as possible, and the new rules on public access to documents should also be fully implemented. On the judicial front, the committee pointed out that EU citizens were entitled to a high level of security but that it was also important to safeguard their human and civil rights. It therefore called for greater police and judicial cooperation, as well as the implementation of anti-discrimination directives and continued efforts to fight against racism and xenophobia and to promote equality between men and women. Member States should guarantee European citizens effective, equitable access to justice, which presupposed the adoption of minimum standards of criminal procedure. The committee also stressed that immigrants with a long-term residence permit should have rights which are as near as possible to those enjoyed by EU citizens. ?

Citizenship of the Union. 3rd report

The European Parliament adopted the resolution by Mr Carlos COELHO (EPP-ED, P) on the third Commission report on citizenship of the Union by 342 votes to 55 with 11 abstentions. (Please refer to the summary dated 18/06/02). In addition, the European Parliament calls on the Member States to remedy the many legislative discrepancies which continue to exist and which represent an obstacle to the full expression of European citizenship in the area of the status of the individuals (conditions for obtaining residence permits, implementation of the right to family reunion), justice (minimal procedural standards) and conditions of movement and residence for migrant workers (social security system, transfer of pension rights). Lastly, the Parliament calls on the Member States and their competent authorities to use educational programmes in order to encourage a better knowledge of Europe, particularly in the form of history and language teaching. It also calls for a Mobility Action Plan (MAP) to be adopted as a matter of urgency, in order to facilitate and increase movement of students, volunteers, teachers and trainers.?