


Procedure file

Basic information		
INI - Own-initiative procedure	2001/2174(INI)	Procedure completed
Universities and higher education in the European knowledge area		
Subject 4.40.04 Universities, higher education		

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	CULT Culture, Youth, Education, Media and Sport	PPE-DE GUTIÉRREZ-CORTINES Cristina	18/09/2001

Key events			
15/11/2001	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
23/05/2002	Vote in committee		Summary
23/05/2002	Committee report tabled for plenary	A5-0183/2002	
05/09/2002	Debate in Parliament		
05/09/2002	Decision by Parliament	T5-0404/2002	Summary
05/09/2002	End of procedure in Parliament		
13/11/2003	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2001/2174(INI)
Procedure type	INI - Own-initiative procedure
Procedure subtype	Initiative
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 54
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	CULT/5/15362

Documentation gateway				
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A5-0183/2002	23/05/2002	EP

Text adopted by Parliament, single reading	T5-0404/2002 OJ C 272 13.11.2003, p. 0409-0455 E	05/09/2002	EP	Summary
--	---	------------	----	---------

Universities and higher education in the European knowledge area

The committee adopted the own-initiative report by Cristina GUTIÉRREZ CORTINES (EPP-ED, E) on universities and higher education in the European learning area. While affirming that the freedom and autonomy of universities must remain cornerstones of European society and its institutional framework, the committee nevertheless felt that the foundations should be laid for an active, dynamic European higher education area to boost renewal and ongoing development. In order to bring this about, the EU should increase its support for universities. MEPs pointed out that such aid would be perfectly compatible with respect for the subsidiarity principle. The report also said that greater mobility was needed in order to create a common European area, which would be impossible without genuine recognition of qualifications and diplomas. The Member States and universities were therefore urged to take steps to overcome the legal and administrative obstacles in the way of mobility and to adopt rapid, flexible systems for recognising qualifications. The committee also recommended that official status or teaching and research staff complements be made more flexible to encourage the recruitment of professionals and experts. Fostering a culture of quality and common European criteria would also contribute to greater mobility, as would the proposals being put forward by the Commission to establish common studies and qualifications or European master's degrees in collaboration with all the universities of the EU Member States. MEPs also reiterated the importance of learning modern foreign languages at university level. In conclusion, the committee called on the Commission to draw up a Green Paper on a future European higher education sector which should seek, inter alia, to: - assess the state of play regarding European universities, their roles and the types of education they provide; - examine the various regulations and working conditions for teachers, research workers, administrative staff and students; - identify the common programmes and public services that universities require as centres of education and research and which, if they were brought into being, would enable them to perform their tasks more easily. ?

Universities and higher education in the European knowledge area

The European Parliament adopted the resolution by Mrs Cristina GUTIERREZ CORTINEZ (EPP-ED, E) on higher education. (Please refer to the summary dated 23/05/02). It should also be added that the Parliament calls on the Commission and the Member States to promote the establishment of a European university seat, essentially to: - act as a centre for meetings and exchange of experience, promoting the establishment of joint projects; - supply and exchange information on common programmes, types of instruction, the introduction of quality assessment systems and their outcome, and postgraduate training; - enable universities to be represented in European institutions and policy; - inform students or citizen wishing to study at European universities of possibilities available; - promote convergence among and the competitiveness of universities at European and international level. As regards funding, the resolution points out that the Member States and regions with higher education responsibilities must ensure that public universities have the funding required to enable them to perform their teaching and research roles to a sufficiently high standard. Lastly, it considers that academic activity and university research findings need to occupy a more prominent place in the mass media.?