


# Procedure file

Basic information		
INI - Own-initiative procedure	<a href="#">2001/2241(INI)</a>	Procedure completed
Scoreboard on implementing the Social Agenda		
Subject 4.10 Social policy, social charter and protocol		

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	<b>EMPL</b> Employment and Social Affairs		13/03/2002
		PPE-DE <a href="#">SMET Miet</a>	
	Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
	<b>FEMM</b> Women's Rights and Equal Opportunities		22/05/2002
		PSE <a href="#">KARAMANOU Anna</a>	
Council of the European Union	Council configuration	Meeting	Date
	<a href="#">Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs2415</a>		07/03/2002

Key events			
17/01/2002	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
07/03/2002	Debate in Council	<a href="#">2415</a>	
09/07/2002	Vote in committee		Summary
09/07/2002	Committee report tabled for plenary	<a href="#">A5-0256/2002</a>	
03/09/2002	Debate in Parliament		
04/09/2002	Decision by Parliament	<a href="#">T5-0399/2002</a>	Summary
04/09/2002	End of procedure in Parliament		
13/11/2003	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2001/2241(INI)
Procedure type	INI - Own-initiative procedure
Procedure subtype	Implementation
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 142-p2; Rules of Procedure EP 54

Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	EMPL/5/15639

## Documentation gateway

Document attached to the procedure	<a href="#">COM(2002)0089</a>	19/02/2002	EC	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading	<a href="#">A5-0256/2002</a>	09/07/2002	EP	
Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report	<a href="#">CES0856/2002</a> <a href="#">OJ C 241 07.10.2002, p. 0104</a>	17/07/2002	ESC	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading	<a href="#">T5-0399/2002</a> <a href="#">OJ C 272 13.11.2003, p. 0365-0394 E</a>	04/09/2002	EP	Summary
Committee of the Regions: opinion	<a href="#">CDR0167/2002</a> <a href="#">OJ C 066 19.03.2003, p. 0001-0005</a>	10/10/2002	CofR	

## Scoreboard on implementing the Social Agenda

The social policy agenda is the EU's roadmap for modernising and improving the European social model by investing in people and building an active welfare state. Both Parliament and Council underlined the importance of an annual scoreboard to keep track of the achievements and to verify the commitments and the contributions from different actors in executing this agenda. The report describes the employment and social situation in Europe. Employment growth in 2000 was the strongest one in the past decade, and nearly 3 million new jobs were created. It brought the employment rate upto 63.2% - 1% more than in 1999 - but still nearly 4% below the Stockholm intermediate target and 7% below the Lisbon objective for 2010. According to current estimates, employment should grow by 1.1% and the employment rate should reach 64% in 2001. High-tech and knowledge-intensive sectors drove recent job creation. This benefitted not only highly skilled workers, but also low and medium-skilled people employed in these sectors. More than 1.6 million of the new jobs were taken by women, whose employment rate grew from 52.8% in 1999 to 54% in 2000, and is estimated to have reached 54.7% in 2001. There remain, however, structural weaknesses in employment: -low employment rate of older workers: an estimated 38.3% in 2001 compared to the Stockholm target of 50% in 2010. -significant gender gaps: 18% in terms of the employment rate, and 14% in terms of pay; -high levels of employment: some 8% of the labour force, of which 3.6% long term and over 16% for young people; -regional differences in employment and unemployment remain very high; Of particular concern is the still high proportion of people living on low incomes. About 18% of the population, or more than 60 million people, are at risk of poverty, living below a threshold defined as 60% of the median equivalised income. If it were not for social transfers - excluding pensions - 26% of the EU population would be living in poverty, as compared to the current 18%. Rather than presenting a detailed description for measures initiated by the Commission, this document presents an overview of measures and achievements, pointing out the role of different actors. New measures make up a significant part of the scoreboard. The report concludes that overall, the agenda is well on track in terms of transposing commitments into concrete actions. All new issues the Commission announced explicitly to launch before end 2001 have been addressed. The implementation of the Social Policy Agenda is a clear example of new and improved governance, showing in practice how public authorities at European, national regional and local level together with Social Partners and civil society effectively work together to bring about reform. This is closely linked to the use of the appropriate combination of policy instruments. Labour markets are being reformed through the European Employment Strategy. This is supported by the European Social Fund, in particular through investment in people. The Council and the European Parliament have been pursuing negotiations on a number of legislative proposals in fields including health and safety at the workplace, the involvement of workers and equal treatment between men and women. The open method of coordination is delivering concrete measures to fight poverty and social exclusion. Reform of social security systems, in particular pensions, is being addressed with a view to meeting both social and financial objectives in a sustainable way. Negotiations by the social partners will lead to modernising flexibility and security with regard to modernisation of work organisation, particularly teleworking. Action programmes on anti-discrimination, equal opportunities and social inclusion do not only facilitate the exchange of experience and good practice, but are also instrumental in involving all stakeholders including NGO's at EU level in these fields. Encouraging voluntary activities by businesses to support sustainable development has been addressed in the green paper on Corporate Social Responsibility. As to the future, there are a number of initiatives for 2002. The main goal is to continue carrying out the structural reform envisaged at Lisbon and outlined in the Social Policy Agenda within the different processes and policies. The report outlines the key initiatives to be expected in the areas of employment, the working environment, social inclusion, modernising social protection, gender equality and enlargement. ?

## Scoreboard on implementing the Social Agenda

The committee adopted the own-initiative report by Miet SMET (EPP-ED, B) on the scoreboard on implementing the social policy agenda. The report repeated Parliament's call for the Commission to send Parliament the annual scoreboard in good time to enable it to deliver its opinion before the spring European Council each year. The committee also wanted Parliament to be fully involved in the mid-term social policy agenda review scheduled for 2003 and called for action to be taken, in connection with the Convention and the IGC, on the integration of the open coordination method into the Treaty, with due attention being paid to Parliament's involvement in this method. The report was critical of the Commission's failure to take account of the requests formulated by Parliament in previous reports on the new social agenda and the scoreboard for 2001. These included: the establishment of a fiscal and legislative framework for the development of the social economy; defining the right to take part in collective action and, in particular, the right to strike at European level; legislation on home-working;

reorganising working hours to ensure a better balance between working and family life; drawing up a proposal on individual dismissals, etc. The committee also called for more active participation by the social partners, particularly employers, in meeting the objectives that had been set. On the positive side, the committee congratulated the Commission on the attention paid to the quality of work, the employment of older workers and the protection of workers in the event of the restructuring or relocation of undertakings. It was also pleased that the Commission had submitted a proposal for portable pensions. There was praise for the decision to organise the European Year of People with Disabilities, although the report also called for more attention to be paid to integration into working life and action to combat discrimination in employment, access to professional training, etc. The committee made a number of recommendations, including a call for legislative proposals and preparatory work to be speeded up in areas such as revision of the directive on the works council, the drawing up of Green Papers on supplementary sickness insurance and on illiteracy and social exclusion and the submission of a proposal, based on Article 13 of the Treaty, on combating discrimination against people with disabilities. The Commission was also urged to take the initiative in combating undeclared work and to propose measures to improve the situation of women and promote the full participation of women in decision-making at the workplace.?

## Scoreboard on implementing the Social Agenda

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The European Parliament adopted a non-binding own-initiative resolution by Mr Miet SMET (EPP-ED, B) on the scoreboard on the implementation of the Social Agenda. Please refer to the summary dated 09/07/2002.?