

Procedure file

Basic information		
INI - Own-initiative procedure	2001/2275(INI)	Procedure completed
Standardising and rationalising reports on implementation of directives on the environment		
Subject 3.70 Environmental policy		

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	ENVI Environment, Public Health, Consumer Policy	PPE-DE JACKSON Caroline	22/01/2002

Key events			
17/01/2002	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
10/07/2002	Vote in committee		Summary
10/07/2002	Committee report tabled for plenary	A5-0259/2002	
03/09/2002	Decision by Parliament	T5-0388/2002	Summary
03/09/2002	End of procedure in Parliament		
13/11/2003	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2001/2275(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	ENVI/5/15652

Documentation gateway					
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A5-0259/2002	10/07/2002	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T5-0388/2002 OJ C 272 13.11.2003, p.	03/09/2002	EP	Summary

Standardising and rationalising reports on implementation of directives on the environment

The committee adopted the own-initiative report by Caroline JACKSON (EPP-ED, UK) on standardising and rationalising reports on the implementation of directives on the environment. The report was critical of the shortcomings of the 1991 directive introducing a standardised reporting system on the implementation of environmental directives in the areas of water, air and waste. It said that the Member States were still failing to meet their basic reporting obligations, which meant that the publication of consolidated reports was regularly delayed. Moreover, the 1991 directive did not lay down detailed instructions for the content of reports, and the questionnaires used were time-consuming and ultimately did not give a useful picture of the effect that environmental legislation was actually having on the environment. A further criticism was that the existing Commission websites did not provide systematic information on reporting or easy access to individual reports. The committee concluded that "the overall picture on reporting is very confusing". The report pointed out that the 6th Environment Action Programme called on the Commission to review the existing reporting systems with a view to ensuring more streamlined, high-quality reporting and comparable and relevant environmental data and information. The committee added that the Commission must now decide to take reporting requirements more seriously and be stricter about following up instances of non-reporting. It recommended separating out basic reporting on transposition from more subjective reporting on the effect of EU law on the state of the environment. The basic reporting requirement should, it said, be very simple and focus on such facts as the date of transposition into national law, the mode of transposition, identification of means of enforcement and of penalties for non-compliance, etc. However, the committee also underlined the importance of separate reports containing information relating to environmental data and descriptions of policy measures, policy effects and effectiveness. Other recommendations focused on ensuring greater transparency with regard to the reporting process, for example by establishing an environmental reporting web page listing the reports submitted by the Member States for all environmental directives in force, together with a list of the countries that have complied with the reporting requirement or are in breach of it. Moreover, the web page should be used to publish consolidated reports following the 3-yearly reporting deadline for major directives even where those reports drew attention to the failure of some Member States to provide information, in the hope that such 'naming and shaming' techniques would act as a spur to the countries concerned. The committee also called for more vigorous enforcement procedures, including a system of fines (per day and per item) which would come into effect automatically as soon as the legal deadline had been passed. Lastly, the report stressed the urgent need to overhaul the reporting system before EU enlargement.?

Standardising and rationalising reports on implementation of directives on the environment

The European Parliament adopted the own-initiative report drafted by Caroline JACKSON (EPP-ED, UK) on reports relating to environmental directives. (Please refer to the document dated 10/07/02.) On the question of enlargement, Parliament went on to state that, as part of the revision of the 1991 directive, the Commission should draft proposals requiring new Member States publicly to report progress on bringing to an end the transitional arrangements that allow them to delay the full implementation of EU environment law.?