


Procedure file

Basic information		
INI - Own-initiative procedure	2002/2141(INI)	Procedure completed
The role of the regional and local powers in the European construction		
Subject 4.70 Regional policy		

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	AFCO Constitutional Affairs		18/06/2002
		PSE NAPOLITANO Giorgio	
	Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
	EMPL Employment and Social Affairs		09/07/2002
		ELDR SBARBATI Luciana	
	FEMM Women's Rights and Equal Opportunities		10/07/2002
		PPE-DE KLASS Christa	

Key events			
05/09/2002	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
28/11/2002	Vote in committee		Summary
28/11/2002	Committee report tabled for plenary	A5-0427/2002	
13/01/2003	Debate in Parliament		
14/01/2003	Decision by Parliament	T5-0009/2003	Summary
14/01/2003	End of procedure in Parliament		
12/02/2004	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2002/2141(INI)
Procedure type	INI - Own-initiative procedure
Procedure subtype	Initiative
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 54
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed

Documentation gateway

Committee of the Regions: opinion		CDR0237/2002 OJ C 073 26.03.2003, p. 0057-0063	20/11/2002	CofR	
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A5-0427/2002	28/11/2002	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T5-0009/2003 OJ C 038 12.02.2004, p. 0017-0167 E	14/01/2003	EP	Summary

The role of the regional and local powers in the European construction

The committee adopted the own-initiative report by its chairman, Giorgio NAPOLITANO (PES, I), on the role of regional and local authorities in European integration. The report contained general recommendations as well as proposals for amendments to certain articles of the treaties. MEPs believed that the hierarchical pyramid structure of the EU's institutional system should be abandoned and that local and regional authorities should be more involved in the European decision-making process. They called on the Commission, when drafting legislation and devising Community policies, to involve in the process, "on a full and regular basis", those who are required to implement these laws and policies, with the precise arrangements for participation by regional and local authorities being determined by national structures. The report also expressed the hope that consultation of regional or local interests would "principally take place via the Committee of the Regions or via the most representative European associations for the defence of regional, urban and local interests". It added that the right to take an issue to the Court of Justice where the subsidiarity principle is presumed to have been breached should be shared between the Committee of the Regions and regional and local authorities which have legislative powers. The committee also sought to add to the treaty an article on linguistic diversity, saying that the Community should, within its spheres of competence, respect and promote linguistic diversity in Europe "including regional or minority languages as an expression of that diversity". MEPs also believed it was important to foster transfrontier cooperation at all levels as this was "a European task and a political objective of the EU". Lastly, the European Convention was asked to examine the role of regional and local authorities in European integration.?

The role of the regional and local powers in the European construction

The European Parliament adopted a resolution based on the own-initiative report drafted by Giorgio NAPOLITANO (PES, Italy) on the role of regional and local authorities in building Europe. It called for the relevant provisions of the European Constitution to recognise the role of the regions, provinces, communes and any regional or local organisation which forms part of the Member States in the pursuit of the objectives of the European Union. The European Constitution should define precisely the exercise, application and monitoring of the subsidiarity principle. Where the transposition of directives into national law falls within the competence of the regions, the latter should enjoy the same flexibility as regards the choice of methods as the national authorities when they are competent. The Member States must strengthen the internal mechanisms which provide for participation by the regions and territorial authorities, in particular those endowed with legislative powers, in all aspects of the process of policy formation that are of specific interest to them. Parliament supported the concept set out in the Commission White Paper on European governance which sees the regions and municipalities acting as intermediaries between the individual and the European institutions. It hoped that alongside the direct consultation of regional and local interests, consultation would principally take place via the Committee of the Regions or via the most representative European associations for the defence of regional, urban and local interests. The Commission should, therefore, act on the appropriate proposals of principle set out in the White Paper on European governance. Parliament went on to state that the Convention must ensure that regions and other territorial entities may defend their rights before the Court of Justice under the authority of the Member State concerned, according to its constitutional or national legislation. Finally, Parliament proposed several amendments to the Treaties with respect to the rights, powers and autonomy of regional and local authorities.?