


# Procedure file

Basic information		
INI - Own-initiative procedure	<a href="#">2002/2152(INI)</a>	Procedure completed
The first five year evaluation of the employment guidelines		
Subject 4.15.02 Employment: guidelines, actions, Funds		

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible		Rapporteur
	<b>EMPL</b> Employment and Social Affairs		Appointed 24/01/2002
			GUE/NGL <a href="#">SCHMID Herman</a>
	Committee for opinion		Rapporteur for opinion
	<b>FEMM</b> Women's Rights and Equal Opportunities (Associated committee)		Appointed 10/07/2002
			PPE-DE <a href="#">MANN Thomas</a>

Key events			
05/09/2002	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
11/09/2002	Vote in committee		Summary
11/09/2002	Committee report tabled for plenary	<a href="#">A5-0301/2002</a>	
24/09/2002	Debate in Parliament		
25/09/2002	Decision by Parliament	<a href="#">T5-0442/2002</a>	Summary
25/09/2002	End of procedure in Parliament		
14/11/2003	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2002/2152(INI)
Procedure type	INI - Own-initiative procedure
Procedure subtype	Initiative
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 54; Rules of Procedure EP 57
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	EMPL/5/16447

Documentation gateway					
Document attached to the procedure		<a href="#">COM(2002)0416</a>	17/07/2002	EC	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		<a href="#">A5-0301/2002</a>	11/09/2002	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		<a href="#">T5-0442/2002</a> <a href="#">OJ C 273 14.11.2003, p. 0131-0192 E</a>	25/09/2002	EP	Summary
Committee of the Regions: opinion		<a href="#">CDR0015/2003</a> <a href="#">OJ C 244 10.10.2003, p. 0046-0049</a>	09/04/2003	CofR	

## The first five year evaluation of the employment guidelines

This Communication reviews the experience of five years of the European Employment Strategy (EES) on the basis of an overall EU labour market performance and an evaluation of the policies implemented by the Member States under the Luxembourg process. It also reviews the main issues which will have to be addressed when re-designing the Strategy for the future. In recent years, the EU labour market performance has visibly improved, with more than 10 million new jobs created since 1997 (6 million of which were taken by women) and 4 million less unemployed, while the active population continued to grow by 5 million people. The evaluation confirms the structural character of these improvements, through reductions in levels of structural unemployment, a more employment-intensive pattern of economic growth and a more rapid labour market response to the economic and social changes. It is difficult to establish how much of the improvement in employment performance can be attributed to the introduction of the EES and how much to economic improvement. However, there have been significant changes in national employment policies, with a clear convergence towards the common EU objectives set out in the EES policy guidelines. A number of specific policy changes have taken place: - employment policies and the role of public employment services have been reshaped to support an active and preventive approach; - in some Member States, tax-benefits systems have been adapted in line with the principles of activation; - labour taxation started to become more employment friendly - education and training systems increasingly adapted to labour market needs; - progress in modernising work organisation has taken place, notably in terms of working time arrangements and more flexible work contracts; - gender mainstreaming has become generalised, with various initiatives taken to tackle the gender gaps. This includes the provision of childcare facilities to improve the reconciliation of work and family life. - new common paradigms such as lifelong learning and quality at work were recognised as policy priorities, with convergence in these areas starting to take place. Beyond this general process of policy convergence, the open method of coordination of the Luxembourg process has demonstrated its added value in fostering partnerships and new working methods, both at national and EU level. Overall, the EES has brought a shift in policy formulation and focus - away from managing unemployment towards managing employment growth. Despite progress there remain serious challenges - not least in terms of responding to demographic trends, the emergence of bottlenecks, regional differences in performance, and the ongoing social and economic restructuring, globalisation and enlargement. The Luxembourg process has to be refocused on its main priorities: creating more and better jobs, and promoting an inclusive labour market. The Communication identifies four main issues for EES reform: - the need to set clear objectives in response to the policy challenges; - the need to simplify the policy guidelines without undermining their effectiveness; - the need to improve governance and partnership in the execution of the strategy; - the need to ensure greater consistency and complementarity with respect to other relevant EU processes, notably the Broad Economic Policy Guidelines.?

## The first five year evaluation of the employment guidelines

The committee unanimously adopted the own-initiative report by Herman SCHMID (EUL/NGL, S) on the Commission communication on taking stock of five years of the European Employment Strategy (EES). MEPs noted that the EES had been very effective but that it was now time for a much more open, change-oriented discussion. The current pillars structure had served its purpose but had been left behind by policy development during recent years. The Commission was therefore asked to replace this structure and to simplify the Employment Guidelines. The committee also believed that the open coordination method needed to be reviewed. It stressed that the major problem was the lack of transposition of the EES at the levels where employment-related decisions were taken. To improve the situation, MEPs proposed that the National Action Plans should be adopted by the national parliaments. In this way, the National Action Plan would be better integrated at national level and the economic responsibilities entailed in the plan would be properly considered. The Commission was also urged to propose changes to the EES so as to turn it into a multi-level process involving interaction between various actors (at local, national, regional and European level). The report also drew attention to other issues to be borne in mind when reviewing the EES, such as: strengthening employment strategies aimed at developing local and regional labour markets; specifying and strengthening the crucial role of the social partners; and supporting and protecting women's employment.

## The first five year evaluation of the employment guidelines

The European Parliament adopted its own-initiative report drafted by Herman SCHMID (EUL/NGL, Sweden) on the European Employment Strategy. (Please refer to the document dated 11/09/02.) The Commission was asked, in addition, to promote the integration of legal immigrants into the labour market in close cooperation with the European social partners and immigrant organisations. Parliament noted that the level of participation in the labour market of disadvantaged groups has not improved compared to the active population in general. The Commission should develop active employment policies for these groups according to their specific needs. Many Member States have not set any employment rates for women in their NAPs. The employment rate for women is still 5% below the Lisbon target. Statistically, their employment rate is around 17% below that for men. Finally, Member States' progress towards reconciling work and family life is still limited.

They must set quantitative objectives for improving facilities for the care of children and other dependants and define specific national targets. Business also has a part to play in the family-friendly organisation of work.?