


Procedure file

Basic information		
INI - Own-initiative procedure	2002/2236(INI)	Procedure rejected
New proposals for the European employment strategy		
Subject 4.15.02 Employment: guidelines, actions, Funds		

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	EMPL Employment and Social Affairs		12/11/2002
		PPE-DE MANN Thomas	

Key events			
19/12/2002	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
20/02/2003	Vote in committee		Summary
11/03/2003	Debate in Parliament		Summary
12/03/2003	Decision by Parliament	A5-0062/2003	

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2002/2236(INI)
Procedure type	INI - Own-initiative procedure
Procedure subtype	Initiative
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 54
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure rejected
Committee dossier	EMPL/5/16931

Documentation gateway					
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A5-0062/2003	20/02/2003	EP	

New proposals for the European employment strategy

The committee adopted the own-initiative report drawn up by Thomas MANN (EPP-ED, D) in response to the Commission communication on the future of the European Employment Strategy (EES). It welcomed the Commission's new focus on a few overarching priorities, while at the same time making a number of recommendations aimed at enhancing the new strategy: - practical measures should be taken to achieve

uniform rules in financial and capital markets in Europe to strengthen confidence among investors and hence their willingness to invest, which in turn would boost growth and employment; - the Council and Commission should make more use of the open coordination method in the field of social protection; - the Commission should submit initiatives for employment-friendly taxation, taking into account national traditions. Sectors of importance for job creation and social inclusion should be treated more favourably in terms of taxes and social security contributions; - in view of the importance of SMEs for high-quality job creation, Member States should improve the business environment by cutting red tape, making venture capital available at favourable rates of interest, establishing regional and local partnerships for the establishment of new SMEs, etc.; - to combat the rapid growth of the hidden economy, Member States should provide incentives to promote declared employment; - companies should adopt a comprehensive social approach rather than a purely profit-based one; - to enable the social partners to be fully involved in preparing the annual Spring Summit, a Tripartite Social Summit should be established as an official body that could meet before the Spring Summit; - to ensure greater participation of civil society in the EES, representative NGOs should be involved in the preparation and evaluation of the National Action Plans; - in view of the enormous labour market potential of the ICT sector, IT courses should be made an integral part of the curriculum; - future guidelines should focus to a greater extent on investing in human resources, through education, training and specialisation measures; - further measures should be taken to improve female employment, e.g. by making it easier to reconcile working and family life, and to eradicate gender-based pay disparities; - access to the labour market for disadvantaged groups should be improved; - the applicant countries should be given active assistance by the Commission in establishing infrastructures to prepare them for the EES.?

New proposals for the European employment strategy

Unexpectedly, the European Parliament rejected, by 224 votes for, 231 against and 72 abstentions, the own-initiative report from Mr. Thomas MANN (PPE-DE, D) on new proposals in favour of a European Employment Strategy and a social policy within the European Union. This report formulated proposals for changes of the European Employment, so that the Spring European Council can take account of them. It asked, in particular, the Commission to concentrate the guidelines on key points and invited the Commission and the Member States to introduce uniform evaluation methods. The result of the vote on the amendments did not satisfy expectations of the PES Group, in particular with regard to SME and the reduction of the tax charter. This is why, the PES recommended to its members to abstain at the time of the final vote. Some members of the EPP also voted against for other reasons, in particular the contents of the report as regards social dialogue, which explains why the final text was finally rejected.?