


Procedure file

Basic information		
INI - Own-initiative procedure	2003/2132(INI)	Procedure completed
The development of the services sector for jobs creation		
Subject 4.15 Employment policy, action to combat unemployment		

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible		Rapporteur
	EMPL Employment and Social Affairs		Appointed 11/06/2003
			PPE-DE KRATSA-TSAGAROPOULOU Rodi
	Committee for opinion		Rapporteur for opinion
	JURI Legal Affairs and Internal Market		Appointed 07/07/2003
			PSE KOUKIADIS Ioannis
	FEMM Women's Rights and Equal Opportunities		Appointed 02/10/2003
			PSE GHILARDOTTI Fiorella

Key events			
04/09/2003	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
27/11/2003	Vote in committee		Summary
27/11/2003	Committee report tabled for plenary	A5-0479/2003	
14/01/2004	Debate in Parliament		
15/01/2004	Decision by Parliament	T5-0027/2004	Summary
15/01/2004	End of procedure in Parliament		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2003/2132(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 report tabled for plenary, single reading		A5-0479/2003	27/11/2003	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T5-0027/2004 OJ C 092 16.04.2004, p. 0338-0383 E	15/01/2004	EP	Summary

The development of the services sector for jobs creation

The committee adopted the own-initiative report by Rodi KRATSA (EPP-ED, GR) on the development of the services sector for job creation. The report noted that the services sector was currently twice the size of the manufacturing sector in terms of GDP and offered considerable untapped potential for job creation. The EU therefore needed to find more intelligent solutions to labour organisation and productivity in this sector. MEPs called on the Commission to publish a White Paper on the completion of an effective European services sector as rapidly as possible, with a view to formulating more specific policies for job creation in all areas of that sector (private business services, services of general interest, public services and the social economy), especially those that meet the challenges of the future. The Commission was also urged, along with the Member States, to promote an open method of coordination for national employment policies in the services sector. This would make it possible to exchange information and best practice to determine the best way of ensuring that the labour reserves and economic potential at the disposal of the services sector could be put to full use throughout the enlarged EU, including in the regions lagging behind. The report also called for a directive on 'Services as part of the internal market' to be introduced as soon as possible as a way of tackling the obstacles which currently hamper workers' freedom of movement and the provision of services in the EU, thus preventing small businesses from developing and generating more jobs in the services sector. MEPs wanted Member States to adopt and implement policies in the sector of education, qualifications and training, with particular emphasis on identifying and addressing skills shortages, in order to prepare a suitable specialised workforce in the services sector, which is continually developing in an environment of rapid technological, social and economic change. They called for the European Social Fund and the European Investment Bank to be used to support the development of this sector. The report also looked at the situation of women in the services sector and noted that they were often in low-paid, insecure and unskilled jobs. The Member States were urged to improve working conditions for women and implement equality policies in such areas as pensions, social insurance, training, etc. Lastly, the committee underlined the contribution which new forms of employment (part-time and temporary employment, teleworking, home-working, etc.) could make to the services sector and called on the Member States to enhance the quality of these new forms of working, by ensuring that all workers are guaranteed the same, high level of protection and job security.?

The development of the services sector for jobs creation

The European Parliament adopted a resolution based on the own-initiative report drafted by Rodi KRATSA (EPP-ED, GR) on job creation in the services sector. (Please see the document dated 27/11/03.) Parliament drew particular attention to the fact that demographic developments in a majority of Member States are such that the work in the area of care for the elderly should be accorded higher status, not least among young people. Furthermore, Member States should recognise domestic work performed by third parties as a proper occupation. Parliament called on the Member States to increase the supply of services providing care for children and the elderly, in order to make it possible to reconcile family and professional life in practice. It underlined public responsibility in terms of controlling and guaranteeing the quality and affordability of such services. Finally, Parliament pointed to the role and contribution of services to the local economy and regional convergence. In view of the role of the social economy in terms of inclusion and job creation, it asked the Member States to promote policies to support specific service sectors, taking account of the advantages (location, environment, infrastructure, culture) and the needs of local regions.?