

Procedure file

Basic information		
COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic)	1994/2081(COS)	Procedure completed
Biotechnology and the White paper on growth, competitiveness and employment: preparing the new stage		
Subject 3.50.08 New technologies; biotechnology		

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	ENER Research, Technological Development and Energy	V BREYER Hiltrud	30/11/1994
	Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
	BUDG Budgets	ELDR REHN Olli	25/01/1995
	ECON Economic and Monetary Affairs, Industrial Policy	PPE SECCHI Carlo	25/01/1995
	JURI Legal Affairs, Citizens' Rights	V ULLMANN Wolfgang	02/02/1995
Council of the European Union	ENVI Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection	PSE GEBHARDT Evelyne	20/12/1994

Key events			
01/06/1994	Non-legislative basic document published	COM(1994)0219	Summary
12/12/1994	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
06/02/1996	Vote in committee		Summary
06/02/1996	Committee report tabled for plenary	A4-0027/1996	
12/03/1996	Debate in Parliament		
14/03/1996	Decision by Parliament	T4-0126/1996	Summary
14/03/1996	End of procedure in Parliament		
01/04/1996	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	1994/2081(COS)
Procedure type	COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic)
Procedure subtype	Commission strategy paper
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 142
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	ENER/3/05630

Documentation gateway					
Non-legislative basic document		COM(1994)0219	01/06/1994	EC	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A4-0027/1996 OJ C 078 18.03.1996, p. 0002	06/02/1996	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T4-0126/1996 OJ C 096 01.04.1996, p. 0223-0277	14/03/1996	EP	Summary

Biotechnology and the White paper on growth, competitiveness and employment: preparing the new stage

Following on from the recommendations in the White Paper entitled "Growth, competitiveness, employment", the Commission communication identifies a number of measures to stimulate the competitiveness of European biotechnology industries, while at the same time undertaking to guarantee maximum safety standards for man and the environment. The Commission is counting on the other institutions, the Member States and interest groups to throw their weight behind these measures. The Commission has therefore decided to: - improve the existing legislative framework by continuing to adapt it to technical progress while maintaining the present basic structure; - continue to work for the fast adoption of regulations to protect intellectual property and legislation on specific products and make provision for an evaluation of the environmental risks; - re-examine the regulatory framework governing biotechnology as and when new scientific knowledge and new regulations in the main countries competing with Europe on the international market so require; - strengthen the scientific opinions at its disposal; - promote the fast adoption of specific R&D programmes in this sector; - facilitate the development of small biotechnology enterprises; - make information on biotechnologies more accessible to the public; - clarify the ethical aspects of biotechnologies with the help of a group of independent experts; - organize round tables in order to stimulate an in-depth debate on the subject.?

Biotechnology and the White paper on growth, competitiveness and employment: preparing the new stage

The Committee on Research, Technological Development and Energy adopted the report by Mrs Hiltrud BREYER. Many amendments were incorporated in the initial draft report. This was not a legislative text but a resolution on a Commission communication. The report stressed that, as a key area of Community research, innovation and production, the European Union's policy on biotechnology could make an important contribution to sustainable development, competitiveness and employment. However, at the same time it must be in line with other policy objectives of the Union, particularly in the fields of agriculture, the environment, health, technological development and competitiveness. The Committee on Research also highlighted that genetic engineering was only one aspect of biotechnology and called for the development of appropriate research programmes and support for other areas of biotechnology. The report also called on the European Commission and the Member States to actively "encourage public dialogue by providing comprehensive, accurate and readily understandable information on genetic engineering research and production, its prospects and risks, rather than merely trying to secure public acceptance". Finally, the committee was in favour of increasing the responsibility of research institutions. ?

Biotechnology and the White paper on growth, competitiveness and employment: preparing the new stage

The European Parliament adopted the report by Mr Gordon ADAM (PSE, RU)(Mrs Hiltrud BREYER having preferred to withdraw as rapporteur) on 'Biotechnology and the White Paper on Growth, Competitiveness and Employment: Preparing the Next Stage'. The report emphasizes that the biotechnology policy of the European Union as a key area of research, innovation and production can make an important contribution to sustainable development, competitiveness and employment, but must at the same time be in line with other policy objectives of the Union, particularly in the fields of agriculture, the environment, health, technological development and competitiveness. The report also notes that genetic engineering is only one aspect of biotechnology and calls for the development of appropriate research or support programmes for other biotechnology areas. Furthermore, it calls on the Commission and the Member States 'actively to encourage public dialogue by providing comprehensive, accurate and readily understandable information on genetic engineering research and production, its

prospects and risks, rather than merely trying to secure public acceptance'. Finally, the European Parliament is in favour of increasing the responsibility of research institutions. The Plenary also invited the Commission to propose measures capable of providing effective support to biotechnology in the face of international competition. ?