


Procedure file

Basic information		
INI - Own-initiative procedure	1996/2131(INI)	Procedure completed
Union rights		
Subject 4.15.10 Worker information, participation, trade unions, works councils		

Key players			
European Parliament			
	Committee for opinion INST Institutional Affairs	Rapporteur for opinion PSE SCHÄFER Axel	Appointed 25/09/1996

Key events			
05/09/1996	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
03/03/1998	Vote in committee		Summary
03/03/1998	Committee report tabled for plenary	A4-0095/1998	
02/07/1998	Debate in Parliament		
02/07/1998	Decision by Parliament	T4-0403/1998	Summary
02/07/1998	End of procedure in Parliament		
20/07/1998	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	1996/2131(INI)
Procedure type	INI - Own-initiative procedure
Procedure subtype	Initiative
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 54
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	EMPL/4/08089

Documentation gateway				
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A4-0095/1998 OJ C 152 18.05.1998, p. 0004	03/03/1998	EP

Union rights

The Committee adopted an own-initiative report by Ria OOMEN-RUIJTEN (EPP, NL) on transnational trade union rights. However, full consensus could not be found on this tricky and delicate issue (17 in favour, 4 against, 2 abstentions). The minority of the Committee argued that the whole issue should remain in the hands of the labour market organizations. The report suggests that it is necessary to enshrine the right of free association in the Treaty on European Union. European employees' and employers' organizations should be given an explicit right to engage in collective bargaining at European level. The right to collective action (e.g. strikes, lockouts) should be a corollary to the right to collective bargaining. According to the report, management and labour organization should draw up proposals for negotiating rules and principles, including the appropriate instruments to avoid labour disputes. In addition, different types of conciliation procedures would be necessary to facilitate the resolution of transnational conflicts. ?

Union rights

In adopting the report by Mrs Ria OOMEN-RUIJTEN (PPE, NL) on transnational trade union rights in the European Union, the European Parliament took the view that ILO Conventions Nos 87 and 98 and the European Social Charter of the Council of Europe, which established freedom of association and the right to collective bargaining at international level, must be applied at Community level. It considered that the coordinated implementation of employment policy and Economic and Monetary Union would provide an impetus for the process of European collective bargaining, and called on the Commission to do everything in its power to apply the ILO Conventions at Community level. It called for fundamental transnational trade unions rights (right of association including the right of collective bargaining and trade union action) to be enshrined in the Treaty on European Union. These rights should include sufficient protection of employees in case they are put at a disadvantage when they enter a trade union or are active in trade unions, and free participation in trade union organisations in enterprises. Parliament stressed that social consensus was an essential condition for ensuring sustained social and economic development, and considered that trade union organisations should be involved in establishing trade union rights at European level. It called on management and labour to enter into dialogue on the creation of appropriate instruments to avoid collective labour disputes and to draw up proposals for negotiating rules and principles. It called on the Commission to have an investigation carried out by the end of 1998 into how management and labour could best establish contractual relations or agreements. It announced that, when holding its annual debate on the Social Charter, it would devote part of the proceedings to the extension of trade union rights at Community level.?