


Procedure file

Basic information		
COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic)	1994/2226(COS)	Procedure completed
Environmental indicators and Green National Accounting: guidelines for the Union		
Subject 3.70 Environmental policy		

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	ENVI Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection		01/02/1995
		PSE DÍEZ DE RIVERA ICAZA Carmen	
	Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
	BUDG Budgets		21/02/1995
	ELDR BRINKHORST Laurens Jan		
	ECON Economic and Monetary Affairs, Industrial Policy		21/03/1995
		EDN BLOKLAND Johannes	
	ENER Research, Technological Development and Energy		02/02/1995
		PPE ESTEVAN BOLEA María Teresa	
Council of the European Union	Council configuration	Meeting	Date
	Environment	2062	16/12/1997

Key events			
21/12/1994	Non-legislative basic document published	COM(1994)0670	Summary
20/01/1995	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
08/09/1995	Vote in committee		Summary
08/09/1995	Committee report tabled for plenary	A4-0209/1995	
10/10/1995	Debate in Parliament		Summary
11/10/1995	Decision by Parliament	T4-0454/1995	Summary
11/10/1995	End of procedure in Parliament		
	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	1994/2226(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	ENVI/4/06346

Documentation gateway					
Non-legislative basic document		COM(1994)0670	21/12/1994	EC	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A4-0209/1995 OJ C 287 30.10.1995, p. 0004	08/09/1995	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T4-0454/1995 OJ C 287 30.10.1995, p. 0077-0115	11/10/1995	EP	Summary

Environmental indicators and Green National Accounting: guidelines for the Union

The Commission considers in its communication that, given the objective of sustainable development laid down in the Treaty, in the fifth action programme on the environment and in the "new development model" described in the White Paper entitled "Growth, competitiveness, employment", new policy guideline and public information instruments need to be introduced at European level including, most importantly, a harmonised European system of accounts and integrated economic and environmental indicators which take account of problems which arise in various sectors of the economy and at various levels of political action and which allow comparisons to be made between the Member States. Economic and environmental information systems should be integrated in the form of six parallel projects within the framework proposed for the Union's green accounts, by: 1. introducing a common conceptual framework to be used as a common accounting reference for all "green" accounting projects in the EU and as a guide for the European system of integrated economic and environmental accounts (ESEA); 2. creating a European system of environmental pressure indexes (ESEPI). This system would be used to define priorities when collating and compiling specific environmental pressure indicators, setting European weighting coefficients and integrating these indicators into the environmental pressure indexes; 3. collating economic performance indexes and environmental pressure indexes within a European system of integrated economic and environmental indicators (ESI) which could be introduced, in a first stage, within 2 years and which, for the first time, would give the EU comparable systems of integrated economic and environmental indicators; 4. working on satellite accounts to national accounts of basic interest to "green" accounting, such as environmental expenditure, natural resource accounting etc; 5. extending the scope of monetary estimates of environmental damage, so as to integrate this sort of information into the above system; 6. guaranteeing horizontal coordination of these activities.?

Environmental indicators and Green National Accounting: guidelines for the Union

The report by Mrs Carmen DIEZ de RIVERA ICAZA on Green National Accounting was approved. In this draft report, the rapporteur shows how important green accounting and environmental indicators are in the process of moving towards a sustainable economy.?

Environmental indicators and Green National Accounting: guidelines for the Union

The rapporteur welcomed the desire to amend the national accounts in order to ensure that the "new development model" advocated by the Union became a reality. The ultimate goal, according to the rapporteur, should be to define an environmental GNP by 1999. Commissioner BJERREGAARD highlighted the special significance of ecological statistics for the promotion of sustainable development. The Commission considered that it was very important for the statistical offices of the Member States to have the resources required to gather data for drawing up so-called "satellite" accounts.

Environmental indicators and Green National Accounting: guidelines for the Union

Adopting the report by Mrs Carmen DIEZ de RIVERA ICAZA (PSE, E) on directions for the European Union on environmental indicators and Green National Accounting, the European Parliament truly welcomed the Commission communication and confirmed that sustainable development was impossible without green accounting which included a monetary evaluation of all aspects of the exploitation and exhaustion

of resources and of the damage caused to the environment and environmental functions. The report called for the introduction of a European system of integrated economic and environmental indicators and considered that green accounting should include expenditure intended to remedy or repair the damage caused. National accounts should not be confined to an evaluation of environmental damage and a monetary estimate of the damage, but should also include economic activities which carried environmental risks. Emphasizing the need to attach a monetary value to the depletion of natural resources, the report considered that the final stage of this exercise should be to define an environmental GNP. It also called on the Commission to submit a precise timetable for implementation and to release the funds needed to complete the action planned. Environmental accounting should also be applied to the budget of the European Union as soon as it was appropriate to do so. Calling on the Commission to reword actions numbers 2 and 4 in its communication, it also stated that it wished to add a seventh action, the purpose of which was to establish and update an inventory of natural resources and of their current and potential exploitation.?