


Procedure file

Basic information		
CNS - Consultation procedure Decision	1995/0062(CNS)	Procedure lapsed or withdrawn
Older People: Community support for actions in favor of Older People 1995-1999		
Subject 4.10.07 The elderly		

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
	BUDG Budgets		22/03/1995
		V MÜLLER Edith	
	JURI Legal Affairs, Citizens' Rights		24/05/1995
		ELDR REHN Elisabeth	
Council of the European Union	CONT Budgetary Control		26/04/1995
		FE DE LUCA Stefano	
	FEMM Women's Rights		
	Council configuration	Meeting	Date
	Social Affairs	1892	05/12/1995
	Social Affairs	1862	29/06/1995

Key events			
21/06/1994	Additional information		Summary
01/03/1995	Legislative proposal published	COM(1995)0053	Summary
19/05/1995	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
29/06/1995	Debate in Council	1862	Summary
07/09/1995	Vote in committee		Summary
07/09/1995	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading	A4-0199/1995	
20/09/1995	Debate in Parliament		Summary
22/09/1995	Decision by Parliament	T4-0430/1995	Summary
25/10/1995	Decision by Parliament	T4-0496/1995	Summary

05/12/1995	Debate in Council	1892	Summary
09/06/2000	End of procedure in Parliament		
09/06/2000	End of procedure in Parliament		
09/06/2000	End of procedure in Parliament		
09/01/2004	Proposal withdrawn by Commission		Summary

Technical information

Procedure reference	1995/0062(CNS)
Procedure type	CNS - Consultation procedure
Procedure subtype	Legislation
Legislative instrument	Decision
Legal basis	EC Treaty (after Amsterdam) EC 308
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure lapsed or withdrawn
Committee dossier	EMPL/4/06629

Documentation gateway

Document attached to the procedure		B4-0431/1994	23/11/1994	EP	
Document attached to the procedure		B4-0445/1994	22/12/1994	EP	
Legislative proposal		COM(1995)0053 OJ C 117 12.05.1995, p. 0014	01/03/1995	EC	Summary
Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report		CES0586/1995 OJ C 236 11.09.1995, p. 0046	31/05/1995	ESC	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading		A4-0199/1995 OJ C 269 16.10.1995, p. 0010	07/09/1995	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, partial vote at 1st reading/single reading		T4-0430/1995 OJ C 269 16.10.1995, p. 0193-0206	22/09/1995	EP	Summary
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading		T4-0496/1995 OJ C 308 20.11.1995, p. 0020-0029	25/10/1995	EP	Summary

Additional information

European Commission	EUR-Lex
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1. Category of referral: 2. Expected date of referral: September 1994 3. Committee responsible: SOCI Asked for an opinion: 4. Previous Community legislation: Provisions on the elderly are, strictly speaking, the responsibility of the Member States. However, a number of measures have been taken: - Regulation (EEC) No. 1408/71 on the application of social security schemes to employed persons, to self-employed persons and to members of their families moving within the Community, with the object of preventing them from losing their social security entitlements (under constant review: last consolidated version OJ C 325, 10.12.1992); - Council recommendation of 10 December 1982 (OJ L 357, 18.12. 1982) on the principles of a Community policy with regard to retirement age; - Regulation (EEC) No. 1096/88 on early retirement for farmers; - Commission recommendation of 10 May 1989 (OJ L 144, 27.5.1989) concerning a European over-sixties' card; - Council directive of 28 June 1990 (OJ L 180, 13.7.1990) on the right of residence for employees and self-employed persons who have ceased their occupational activity; - Council Decision 92/440 of 24 June 1992 on the organization of the European Year of the elderly and solidarity between generations (1993) (OJ L 245, 26.8.1992); - Council resolution of 30 June 1993 on flexible retirement arrangements (OJ C 188, 10.7.1993); - Declaration of principle of the Council of the European Union and the Ministers for Social Affairs,

meeting within the Council of 6 December 1993 to mark the end of the European year of the elderly and of solidarity between generations (1993) (OJ C 343, 21.12.1993); - Various programmes of action for (or in part concerning) the elderly: programme of action against poverty, HELIOS programme for disabled people, programme for promoting equal opportunities for men and women, TIDE programme for disabled and elderly people, Community actions for the family. 5. Previous position of EP: The European Parliament has always given particular attention to the situation of the elderly in Europe and has adopted many resolutions in this connection. It was the European Parliament which launched the idea of a 'European year of the elderly'. It also wishes to strengthen the role of the elderly at European level, in particular within the institutions. From 22 to 24 November 1993 it accordingly convened a Senior Citizens' Parliament in Luxembourg. In its resolution adopted on 24 February 1994 (OJ C 77, 14.3.1994) on measures for the elderly, it considers in particular elderly people's incomes, measures to promote independence, the elderly and the labour market, and integration and participation in society. 6. Situation in the Member States: Legislation concerning the elderly is essentially the responsibility of the Member States. For further information on the situation in the Member States, see point 9(c) below. 7. Content of the planned legislation: 1994 has been designated 'International year of the family' and particular attention will be given to the situation of the elderly in the family environment. In addition, 1994 is an intermediate year, falling between the first programme of action for the elderly (1991-1993) and the second programme scheduled for 1995. On 6 May the Commission announced that it would not table its draft before September. However, the main themes of the new programme of action for 1995 are as follows: the elderly and the labour market, health care for the elderly, active retirement and healthy ageing. The Commission takes the view that further developments may occur throughout 1994. 8. Legal basis envisaged by the Commission: 9. Documentation and sources: (a) Fact sheets on the activities of the European Parliament and the European Union (No. 4.4.11.) (Directorate-General for Research, September 1993) (b) Brochure entitled 'A Senior Citizens' Europe' published by the European Parliament (1994) (c) 'Older people in Europe - Social and economic policies' (1994) and 'Older people in Europe: social integration' (1993) published by Alan Walker, Commission of the European Communities, DG V, Employment, Social Affairs and Industrial Relations (d) '1993: European year of the elderly and solidarity between generations' (1993) published by Eamon McNerney, Commission of the European Communities, DG V, Employment, Social Affairs and Industrial Relations. 10. Background information: ?

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1) OBJECTIVE To develop the role and potential of the active retired population and promote best practices for improving the situation of older women, managing an ageing workforce, transition from work to retirement, and care for dependent older people. To strengthen solidarity between generations and the integration of dependent older people. 2) CONTENTS 1. The proposal covers the period 1 September 1995 to 31 December 1999. 2. The proposed measures include support for transnational activities and partnerships to facilitate the exchange of information and experience between Member States and promote best practices to contend with population ageing. The aim of the proposal is to capitalise on the experience acquired and make maximum use of the main partnerships formed during the European Year of Older People and Solidarity between Generations (1993). The partnerships include players from the private sector, NGOs and public authorities. 3. Applications for funding may be made by organisations and individual persons. 4. The level of the Community's contribution towards eligible measures will not exceed 75% of total cost. 5. The Commission will be assisted by a committee of an advisory nature, composed of two representatives of the government of each Member State and chaired by a representative of the Commission. 6. The total budget for the whole period is estimated at ECU 23 million. 7. The Commission will present to the Council and the European Parliament a report on the implementation and results of actions by 31 December 2000. Source : European Commission - Info92 - 02/96?

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The Economic and Social Committee endorsed the proposal for a Council decision on Community support for actions in favour of older people. However, it regretted that not all the proposals and suggestions made in its Own-initiative Opinion of 25 November 1993 [(1) OJ C 34 of 2 February 1994, page 61] had been taken up by the Commission. The ESC had reservations about, and was critical of, the restricted framework of the planned Community action and its limits in relation to the scale of the problems facing older people and the requests made in a number of its earlier Opinions. It hoped that the Commission's action relating to older people would be included in other Community programmes, e.g. the public health programme (preventive measures to ensure good health in old age), Community transport programmes (measures to encourage access to transport for older people with reduced mobility), or Community measures to encourage tourism.

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The Presidency noted that since the German delegation still maintained its general reservation there was not the unanimity required to adopt this Decision.

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The Commission must not allow itself to be "hamstrung by nationalist tendencies in the Member States", Mr Raphaël CHANTERIE (EPP, B) warned in his report on Community measures to help older people, which was adopted. The purpose of the report was to improve, through amendments, the current Commission proposal for a Council Decision on Community support for actions in favour of older people. The committee's report called for the establishment of a Community action programme for the period 1 September 1995 to 31 December 1999. Commenting on the Commission proposal in his explanatory statement in the committee report, Mr Chanterie said: "A feature of the proposed decision is its restraint. The document is imbued with considerable and exaggerated concern not to encroach on the Member States' territory." If it were the Commission's intention to abide strictly by the subsidiarity principle, it would be doing no more than its duty. "It must not, on the other hand, allow itself to be hamstrung by nationalist tendencies in the Member States. On no account must the Commission be persuaded to turn back the European social clock," he said. Demographic developments posed such serious common challenges for the Member States that European forces needed to be pooled. The Commission's proposals come in the wake of the European Year of Older People and Solidarity between Generations (1993) and in the run-up to the UN-designated International Year of the Elderly (1999). When he presented his amendments to the committee in June, Mr Chanterie said: "We want to give the ideas of the Commission a bit more umph." He argued that it

was not enough for the Community simply to sponsor action in favour of older people."The Union itself must organize Community actions." Mr Chanterie criticized the amount of funding proposed by the Commission, which "wrongly" devoted only one short sentence to financial resources. The amount which the Commission proposed to release each year (ECU 5.5 million) would amount to a gradual decline in European support. In view of the progressive ageing of the population, this was unacceptable. The committee agreed that the four-year Community action programme should be funded to the tune of ECU 40 million rather than the ECU 23 million proposed by the Commission. The committee's amendments called, inter alia, for: .the introduction of a European Old People's Passport, which would entitle older people to reduced payments for travel, entry to museums, concerts, etc; .the establishment of a European Observatory on Ageing and Older People with the task of drawing up: = an annual comparative report on the socio-economic situation of older people and policy throughout the European Union towards older people; = annual report evaluating the implications for older people of implementing the Council's recommendations on social protection (including the convergence of objectives and policies and the establishment of common criteria for adequate incomes and benefits); . the development of the social role and independence of older people by identifying innovative roles for them within the family, within society and at work; . the drafting of a Commission Green Paper on demographic trends in Europe; . the preparation of a joint declaration by the European Parliament, the Commission and the Council of Ministers on the basic principles and general objectives of policy towards older people in the European Union and the Member States. Priority should be given to activities geared to the integration of older people in danger of isolation, especially older migrants, older people in urban and remote areas, sick and disabled older people, older people affected by poverty, older women and the very old, through an integrated network of social and health services. Policy and action in respect of older people should be coordinated with and integrated into other Community policy and measures. The committee was also concerned to promote the autonomy of older people by enabling them to live independently in their own houses instead of going into old people's homes. It also wants to promote solidarity between the generations. Priority should be given to activities organized by older people themselves. In the discussion of Mr Chanterie's report in June, Mrs Barbara SCHMIDBAUER (PES, D) told the committee: "There is too much representation of old people by others".

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Highlighting Parliament's role as a genuine champion of the cause of the elderly since the 1980s and in particular during the 1993 European Year, Commissioner Flynn announced that it was estimated that there would be an additional 18 million pensioners by 2020, thus increasing the number of older people by a third (from 52 million to 70 million). He was in favour of older people's associations and experts in the field playing an increasingly active role at European level. Given the lack of available resources, it was vital for interested parties to play a key role in the activities promoted by this programme. Finally, the Commissioner guaranteed that the Commission was committed to supporting this programme at the vote in the Council.

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In adopting the report by Mr CHANTERIE (PPE, B), the European Parliament approved the proposal for a decision which aimed not only to support actions in favour older people but also to establish a Community action programme aimed at ensuring the convergence of Member States' policies towards older people. However, pursuant to Rule 60(2) of the EP's Rules of Procedure, the rapporteur wished to postpone the vote on the legislative resolution to a later sitting in 1995, pending clarification of the Commission's position. In fact, the EP feared that during the discussions between the Council and Commission on this proposal, the Commission had not given any ground and the Council had in no way supported the spirit of the amendments tabled by the EP. The final vote had therefore been postponed. Nonetheless, the amendments adopted by the House at the sitting in September related to the following aspects: - clarification of the programme's objectives: . to identify ways to develop the role and potential of older people by identifying innovative roles within the family, society and employment; . to improve and possibly promote the situation of older women and the very old, the situation of older workers in the labour market, the transition from work to retirement, integrated informal care for older people, with particular reference to dependent older people, and solutions which facilitated the independent living of older people; . to strengthen solidarity between and within generations; - increase in the financial resources required for this action, from ECU 23 million to ECU 40 million (the budgetary authority should determine the appropriations available for each financial year); - the level of Community contribution should not, as a rule, exceed 50%, and in no circumstances 75% (the contribution should be granted in the form of repayable advances on loans or subsidies); - actions should be implemented in close cooperation with the NGOs working in the sector. With regard to the actions themselves: . establishment of a European Observatory on Ageing and Older People instructed to draw up an annual comparative report on the socio-economic situation of older people and policies in the Member States towards older people as well as an annual report on the implications of the Council's recommendations on social protection; . preparation of a European Old People's Passport, a Green Paper on demographic trends in Europe and a joint declaration by the Commission, Council and European Parliament on the general objectives of policy towards older people in the Union; . among the themes and priorities described in the annex, the EP stressed, in particular, that actions should encourage the independence of older people and the integration of older people in danger of isolation (older people in urban or remote areas and especially sick older people); the exchange of experiences and spread of best practice should be encouraged; - complementarity and cohesion of the activities to be undertaken under this programme and other relevant Community actions; - presentation of an interim report before 31 December 1997. ?

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Parliament approved the proposal for a decision along with the amendments adopted during the plenary sitting in September 1995 (Minutes of 22.09.1995). ?

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The Council re-examined the proposal for a decision on Community support for actions in favour of older people. It found that the unanimity required to approve the Decision still did not exist. It instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue the discussions and to report back at a meeting in the near future.

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As announced in Official Journal C 5 of 9 January 2004, the Commission decided to withdraw this proposal, which had become obsolete.