Procedure file

Basic information

COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic)	1995/2051(COS)	Procedure completed

Structural Funds: allocation of funding and implementation of Community initiatives in Austria, Finland and Sweden

Subject
4.70.03 Community initiatives, Community support frameworks

Geographical area
Austria
Sweden
Finland

Key players

European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	REGI Regional Policy		07/09/1995
		PSE MYLLER Riitta	
	Committee for opinion	**Rapporteur for opinion**	**Appointed**
	AGRI Agriculture and Rural Development		19/07/1995
		ELDR JÄRVILAHTI Timo Juhani	
	BUDG Budgets		

Council of the European Union

Key events

04/04/1995	Non-legislative basic document published	COM(1995)0123	Summary
14/07/1995	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
19/12/1995	Vote in committee		Summary
19/12/1995	Committee report tabled for plenary	A4-0328/1995	
18/01/1996	Debate in Parliament		
19/01/1996	Decision by Parliament	T4-0031/1996	Summary
19/01/1996	End of procedure in Parliament		
05/02/1996	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	1995/2051(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	REGI/4/06529

Documentation gateway

Non-legislative basic document		COM(1995)0123	04/04/1995	EC	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A4-0328/1995 OJ C 032 05.02.1996, p. 0004	19/12/1995	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T4-0031/1996 OJ C 032 05.02.1996, p. 0128-0139	19/01/1996	EP	Summary

Structural Funds: allocation of funding and implementation of Community initiatives in Austria, Finland and Sweden

The Commission communication relates to the allocation of funds and the implementation of Community initiatives in Austria, Finland and Sweden. The Commission reiterates the approach taken: - Stage 1: the proportion of each initiative is determined by estimating the amount which each new Member State would have received had it been a member of the EU when the allocations were decided last year. There would then be a remainder for each Member State, since not all the initiatives are applicable in practice in new Member States; - Stage 2: the initial situation is corrected by allocating the remainder in order to reflect the particular requirements of the Member States. In this respect, the Commission notes that the three Member States all have exceptionally long external borders with third countries. Helping to achieve economic and social stability in the Baltic Sea area and in northern and central Europe is a priority for both the EU and the Member States in question. Similarly, INTERREG-PHARE programmes form part of the pre-accession strategy for neighbouring countries in central Europe, which is why the Commission proposes that: - for Sweden, the remainder should be allocated in full to INTERREG; - for Finland, most of the remainder should be allocated to INTERREG, with a small proportion going to the SME and PESCA initiatives. The allocation to URBAN would be reduced slightly for the benefit of the SME initiative; - for Austria, most of the remainder should be allocated to INTERREG and the rest to ADAPT. URBAN should also benefit. Overall, the Commission feels that Community Initiatives guidelines should apply in the three new Member States in exactly the same way as in the Europe of the Twelve. Finally, the Commission has reached an agreement with the Member States whereby projects funded under the EMPLOI initiative are based on transnational partnerships. It should also be noted that approximately 2.5% of the financial packages for LEADER, SME and PESCA in these three countries should be used mainly to fund Community and national networks for exchanging information and experience. The suggested breakdown of appropriations for Community initiatives in the three new Member States is as follows: Austria: ECU 146.07 million; Finland: ECU 153.36 million; Sweden: ECU 127.80 million.?

Structural Funds: allocation of funding and implementation of Community initiatives in Austria, Finland and Sweden

The Committee on Regional Policy unanimously adopted the report, thus advocating flexible application of the Community initiatives to the three new countries in accordance with their particular requirements. It approved the emphasis which the Commission laid on Interreg II and encouraged the efforts to strengthen cross-border cooperation between the new Member States and the CEECs, the Baltic states and the CIS. Finally, as regards the URBAN initiative, the report called for a revision of the eligibility criteria with regard to the size of towns so that the smallest urban centres could have easy access to the financial programmes under the initiative concerned. ?

Structural Funds: allocation of funding and implementation of Community initiatives in Austria, Finland and Sweden

In adopting the report by Mrs Riitta MYLLER (PSE), the European Parliament advocated flexible application of the Community Initiatives guidelines to the three new Member States so as to adapt them to their specific needs. It approved the emphasis which the Commission laid on INTERREG II and encouraged the efforts to strengthen cross-border cooperation between the countries of Central and Eastern Europe, the Baltic States and the CIS. It believed it was essential for the TACIS and PHARE procedures to be coordinated with the INTERREG II procedure whose scope of intervention should be extended to cover the funding of action in the field of regional planning and interregional cooperation. The EP believed that the role assigned by the Commission to the URBAN initiative was inadequate and called for a revision of the eligibility criteria with regard to the size of towns, so that the smallest urban centres could have easy access to the financial programmes under the initiative concerned, the emphasis being laid on the urban/rural interface, cultural activities and social integration. ?