


# Procedure file

Basic information		
COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic)	<a href="#">1995/2083(COS)</a>	Procedure completed
Conservation of wetlands: European strategy		
Subject 3.70.01 Protection of natural resources: fauna, flora, nature, wildlife, countryside; biodiversity		

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	<b>ENVI</b> Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection		26/07/1995
		PSE <a href="#">KOKKOLA Angela</a>	
	Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
	<b>AGRI</b> Agriculture and Rural Development		19/07/1995
		EDN <a href="#">DES PLACES Edouard C.M.P.</a>	
Council of the European Union	<b>TRAN</b> Transport and Tourism		
	<b>PECH</b> Fisheries		18/07/1995
		EDN <a href="#">SOUCHET Dominique F.C.</a>	

Key events			
29/05/1995	Non-legislative basic document published	COM(1995)0189	Summary
10/07/1995	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
09/07/1996	Vote in committee		Summary
09/07/1996	Committee report tabled for plenary	<a href="#">A4-0238/1996</a>	
11/12/1996	Debate in Parliament		
12/12/1996	Decision by Parliament	T4-0691/1996	Summary
12/12/1996	End of procedure in Parliament		
20/01/1997	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information	

Procedure reference	1995/2083(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/4/06656

### Documentation gateway

Non-legislative basic document		COM(1995)0189	29/05/1995	EC	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		<a href="#">A4-0238/1996</a> <a href="#">OJ C 261 09.09.1996, p. 0004</a>	09/07/1996	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T4-0691/1996 <a href="#">OJ C 020 20.01.1997, p. 0096-0179</a>	12/12/1996	EP	Summary

## Conservation of wetlands: European strategy

**OBJECTIVE:** to outline the strategy needed to establish a decisive policy to promote the rational use of wetlands (coastal zones, estuaries and deltas, alluvial plains, lakes, peat bogs). **CONTENT:** the Commission communication explains that wetlands fulfil several functions (regulating water levels, stabilizing coasts, filtering water etc.) and that they represent a natural and cultural heritage. It points out that the conservation requirements of these areas should be integrated into all the Union's internal and external policies and gives an overview of the measures which need to be taken to arrest the deterioration of these ecosystems in Europe and the world as a whole. The Commission recommends a six-point strategy: - integrated management of water and wetlands; - management of major international rivers; - management of coastal zones; - improved legal instruments for defending wetlands; - improved economic evaluation instruments; - support for research and monitoring and education and training activities. The four main areas identified with a view to a Community policy are: - total coherence of the Natura 2000 network and compliance with the obligations inherent in it; - integrated quantitative and qualitative water management; - a regional planning strategy based on Community principles and incentives; - significant financial support for integrated programmes and the implementation of coordinated multisectoral policies.?

## Conservation of wetlands: European strategy

A call for the establishment of "Euro wetlands" meeting strict environmental standards was made by the environment committee today when it adopted a non-legislative report by Mrs Angela KOKKOLA advocating the wise use and conservation of wetlands. The report represents the committee's reaction to a communication from the Commission to the Council and Parliament on the same subject. Other measures recommended by the committee include drawing up an inventory of Europe's wetlands, giving wetlands special status involving integrated sustainable management and banning the use of EU funds for projects such as afforestation or drainage which damage wetlands. Since the basic problem is conflict over the allocation of water resources, the report is also calling on the Commission to draw up a water-saving programme. Observing that the efforts made so far by the Union had been insufficient to check the continuing loss and degradation of wetlands, the report blamed poor information, the malfunction of market forces and misguided administrative action by Member States and the Union. ?

## Conservation of wetlands: European strategy

In adopting the report by Mrs Angela KOKKOLA (PSE, Gr) on the wise use and conservation of wetlands, Parliament expressed its support for the establishment of 'Euro-wetlands' on the basis of strict environmental standards. Other measures recommended by Parliament include: an inventory of wetlands in Europe, making wetlands subject to a special status related to a policy of integrated management satisfying environmental requirements and a ban on the financing from Community funds of afforestation or drainage projects which cause their degradation. Also, in view of the problems relating to the distribution of water resources, the Commission is called on to draw up a water-saving programme. ?