Basic information

1994/2027(COS) COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic)	Procedure completed
Immigration and asylum policies **Subject** 7.10.06 Asylum, refugees, displaced persons; Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF) 7.10.08 Migration policy	

Key players

Council of the European Union	Council configuration	Meetings	Date
	Justice and Home Affairs (JHA)	1859	1995-06-20

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
23/02/1994	Non-legislative basic document published	COM(1994)0023	Summary
18/04/1994	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
20/06/1995	Resolution/conclusions adopted by Council		
27/06/1995	Vote in committee		Summary
27/06/1995	Committee report tabled for plenary	A4-0169/1995	
20/09/1995	Debate in Parliament		Summary
21/09/1995	End of procedure in Parliament		
16/10/1995	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	1994/2027(COS)
Procedure type	COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic)
Procedure subtype	Commission strategy paper
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 148
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	LIBE/3/05302

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A4-0169/1995 OJ C 249 25.09.1995, p. 0005	27/06/1995	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T4-0400/1995 OJ C 269 16.10.1995, p. 0137-0156	21/09/1995	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Non-legislative basic document	COM(1994)0023	23/02/1994	Summary

Other institutions and bodies

Institution/body	Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
EESC	Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report	CES1008/1994 OJ C 393 31.12.1994, p. 0069	14/09/1994	Summary

Immigration and asylum policies

1994/2027(COS) - 23/02/1994 - Non-legislative basic document

This Commission communication related to the immigration and asylum policies in the European Union and defined the guiding framework for the future European policy on this issue. The main areas of reflection proposed by the Commission to reach a global agreement on immigration and asylum in Europe were defined as follows: - working on migratory pressure, particularly by cooperating with the main countries of potential emigration to Europe: to meet this objective, the migration and asylum policies should be fully integrated in the Union's external policies and the various instruments in the matter should be used (e.g. in the fields of trade, development and cooperation, humanitarian assistance and human rights); - controlling immigration in order to maintain it within structures that could be managed: to this end, the communication proposed that there should be a joint political response to the problems of admitting workers, students and refugees and to the problem of illegal immigration; - giving greater consideration to the integration policies concerning legal immigrants: in this context, the communication suggested that the integration policies should improve the situation of nationals of third countries who had taken up residence legally (e.g.: though the creation of economic and socio-cultural conditions that benefited successful integration and dialogue with immigrant communities).

Immigration and asylum policies

1994/2027(COS) - 14/09/1994 - Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report

Immigration and asylum policies

1994/2027(COS) - 21/09/1995 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

In adopting the report by Mr WIEBENGA (ELDR, NL), Parliament approved the communication from the Commission on immigration and asylum. In its resolution, Parliament called on the Commission to present, before 1 January 1996, a working programme based on this resolution and containing a schedule for the measures to be introduced and their financing. The Commission was also called on to play a greater role in this particular area, with the target being the rapid harmonization of asylum and immigration policies and the possibility of bringing within the Community system a set of criteria for granting residence permits to refugees. . According to Parliament, the concept of providing a temporary reception for refugees should be the object of a Commission proposal containing at least the following: . the conditions of temporary reception, . the duration of the period of reception . the type of reception offered. Parliament also took the view that asylum and immigration policies should progressively become Community-based and that in this capacity any "resolution" or "recommendation" from the Council should be presented to Parliament under the provision of Article K6 of the Treaty on European Union. Parliament also put forward a series of proposals relating to each of the areas covered by the Commission in its communication: - Migration: . presentation of a proposal which aims to coordinate more effectively the study and the processing of information relating to migration (in the form of a monitoring centre); . definition of an appropriate policy for migration prevention in the European Union; . adoption of Community criteria

for assessing asylum applications and common definition of the procedures applicable to the reception and protection of refugees; . drafting of a framework directive on immigration (to be followed by individual directives) which relates to access to the employment market, training, short-term working and the return of migrants, and introduction of a directive on family entry and settlement (on behalf of the current resolution); - Asylum: . adaptation of the asylum legislation applied by Member States, so that the procedures involved cannot take more than 3 years; . drafting of a common definition of the concept of "refugee" in the light of Article 1A of the Geneva Convention, while ensuring that refugee status is granted to anyone who is a real victim of persecution; . implementation of measures which take particular account of persons who are in a precarious legal position (children, women and unaccompanied minors); . introduction of minimum guarantees in respect of asylum procedures in the Member States, in order that: * all applicants might receive a full and fair hearing, * applicants are not transferred to non-member countries (or turned away) by Member States if effective refugee protection can be provided, * requests can only be rejected by responsible bodies, * applicants whose request has been rejected have the right of legal appeal (in the knowledge that any appeal will have a suspensive effect on deportation); . introduction by Member States of a framework of measures for persons who have undergone expatriation for reasons of serious distress, to comprise the provision of temporary reception, which does not call into question their right to apply for asylum at the end of this initial period; . introduction of a European system for the global reception of refugees, asylum seekers, etc., in order that the responsibility for such reception might be equally shared by the Member States; - Illegal immigration: . presentation of a proposal for the consistent repatriation of illegal immigrants; . strengthening of measures to combat illegal smuggling and black-market labour in the Member States; - Racism and xenophobia: . submission of a proposal for a directive to counteract discrimination; . measures to combat racism and xenophobia to be included in the priorities set for the European Community within the framework of the 1996 Intergovernmental Conference; . a code of good practice which prohibits racial discrimination is to be drawn up before 1997; - Integration: . introduction of measures which give priority to immigrants who are normally resident in the Community (easier access to dual nationality, granting of active and passive voting rights at local, regional and European level, etc.) . harmonization of measures relating to residence in the European Community in order to consolidate the status of immigrants who are normally resident in the EC; . setting up a Community programme which will include measures relating to professional training, the integration of respect for cultural identity, etc.; . promotion of basic standards for the treatment of immigrants, refugees and others, in respect of social security, employment, family entry and settlement, etc. Finally, Parliament called on the Commission and the Member States to organize an exchange of experience in this field in order to determine whether an active immigration policy will be necessary in the future.