Basic information

1994/2032(COS) COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic)	Procedure completed
Pharmaceutical industry: outlines of an instrustrial policy for the pharmaceutical sector **Subject** 4.20.04 Pharmaceutical products and industry	

Key players

Council of the European Union

Council configuration	Meetings	Date
Consumers	1917	1996-04-23

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
02/03/1994	Non-legislative basic document published	COM(1993)0718	Summary
02/05/1994	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
19/03/1996	Vote in committee		Summary
19/03/1996	Committee report tabled for plenary	A4-0104/1996	
16/04/1996	Debate in Parliament		
16/04/1996	End of procedure in Parliament		
23/04/1996	Resolution/conclusions adopted by Council		Summary
13/05/1996	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	1994/2032(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	ECON/3/05324

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A4-0104/1996 OJ C 141 13.05.1996, p. 0006	19/03/1996	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T4-0170/1996 OJ C 141 13.05.1996, p. 0020-0063	16/04/1996	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Non-legislative basic document	COM(1993)0718	02/03/1994	Summary

Pharmaceutical industry: outlines of an instrustrial policy for the pharmaceutical sector

1994/2032(COS) - 16/04/1996 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

In adopting the report by Mrs Irene SOLTWEDEL-SCHÄFER (V) by 233 votes to 162 and 5 abstentions, Parliament called for: - governments to cut back the cost of using medicines. A critical eye should be kept on the resultant restructuring, to ensure that monopoly situations do not arise; - the close monitoring of mergers in this sector, an increase in the cost effectiveness of research rather than the pursuit of an industrial policy based on deregulation and subsidies; - an end to the industry's frenetic use of advertising; - the encouragement of genuine innovation; - the maintenance of protection for new medicinal products by intellectual property rights; - the introduction of measures, in advance of patent or supplementary protection certificate expiry, enabling the beginning of such laboratory experiments and regulatory preparations as may be required for the registration of generic pharmaceuticals, so that they may be available on the market after the expiry of the patent; - the focusing of research on innovative therapies, diseases which cannot yet be treated satisfactorily, and rare diseases; - the establishment of a dialogue between the politicians, employers, unions and patients; - better access to research and development for SMEs, particularly in the biotechnology field; - the development of the European Medicines Evaluation Agency into a Community-wide licensing authority; - the reduction of animal experiments; - improvement in the marketing of herbal and homeopathic medicines through the adjustment of the authorization procedure and the setting-up of a Traditional Medicines Evaluation Agency; - the encouragement of responsible self-medication; - the introduction of a responsible policy on exports; - the Commission to consider what instruments were best suited to disseminating information, independent of the industry, on the effects and the risks of medicinal products (Green amendments). It should be noted that Parliament accepts that, whilst some fears have been expressed about the risks of genetic engineering, it is justified and desirable that all types of research should continue, with scrupulous respect for human and animal life, particularly in the development of new therapies for diseases which are not as yet susceptible to any form of treatment.

Pharmaceutical industry: outlines of an instrustrial policy for the pharmaceutical sector

1994/2032(COS) - 02/03/1994 - Non-legislative basic document

This communication aimed to outline the industrial policy guidelines to be applied to the pharmaceutical sector in the Community. On the basis of the idea that this industry required a market that was better integrated and where competition was freer, the Commission intended to give priority to the following aspects: - consolidating and progressively updating existing pharmaceutical legislation in a manner that was codified, transparent and easily accessible to health enterprises and professions, and ensuring that Community legislation was fully and correctly transposed by the Member States; - implementing as soon as possible the future system for the authorisation of medicines for human and animal use, particularly by contributing to the establishment of the European Medicines Evaluation Agency, in close cooperation with the competent national authorities and firms concerned; - ensuring and improving the protection of intellectual property for genuinely innovative therapeutic inventions, so as to ensure protection similar to that available in the main rival markets; - creating a more favourable environment for biotechnology through the adaptation of the regulatory framework to the needs of research and current international developments; - promoting the integration and coordination of research and development work in the pharmaceutical sector within the context of the fourth framework programme for R&D; - monitoring the effects on the operation of the internal market of national measures to control prices and reimburse medicines where they were of a discriminatory nature and with the aim of ensuring transparency and exploring the need to adapt Directive 89/105/EEC relating to the transparency of measures regulating the prices of medicinal products for human use and their inclusion in the scope of national health insurance systems, in the light of experience; - increasing competition in the pharmaceutical market, by making it more transparent and by making it possible to encourage competition through prices; - providing health professionals and consumers with sufficient information to promote the rational use of medicines, particularly through the harmonisation of labels and indications for use,

and the updating of a computerised database on medicines that would subsequently be available to the public (ECPHIN); - continuing and stepping up harmonisation efforts at global level in order to reduce the costs of research and development in the pharmaceutical sector and facilitate the opening up of external markets to medicines produced in the Community.

Pharmaceutical industry: outlines of an instrustrial policy for the pharmaceutical sector

1994/2032(COS) - 23/04/1996

The Council formally adopted a resolution on an industrial policy for the pharmaceuticals sector, the text of which was contained in the press release issued at the Industry Council meeting of 28 March 1996 (doc. 6059/96, Presse 75).