Basic information

1994/2081(COS) COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic)	Procedure completed
Biotechnology and the White paper on growth, competitiveness and employment: preparing the new stage **Subject** 3.50.08 New technologies; biotechnology	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
ENER Research, Technological Development and Energy	BREYER Hiltrud (V)	30/11/1994

Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
BUDG Budgets	REHN Olli (ELDR)	25/01/1995
ECON Economic and Monetary Affairs, Industrial Policy	SECCHI Carlo (PPE)	25/01/1995
JURI Legal Affairs, Citizens' Rights	ULLMANN Wolfgang (V)	02/02/1995
ENVI Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection	GEBHARDT Evelyne (PSE)	20/12/1994

Council of the European Union

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
01/06/1994	Non-legislative basic document published	COM(1994)0219	Summary
12/12/1994	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
06/02/1996	Vote in committee		Summary
06/02/1996	Committee report tabled for plenary	A4-0027/1996	
12/03/1996	Debate in Parliament		
14/03/1996	End of procedure in Parliament		

01/04/1996	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	1994/2081(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	ENER/3/05630

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A4-0027/1996 OJ C 078 18.03.1996, p. 0002	06/02/1996	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T4-0126/1996 OJ C 096 01.04.1996, p. 0223-0277	14/03/1996	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Non-legislative basic document	COM(1994)0219	01/06/1994	Summary

Biotechnology and the White paper on growth, competitiveness and employment: preparing the new stage

1994/2081(COS) - 01/06/1994 - Non-legislative basic document

Following on from the recommendations in the White Paper entitled "Growth, competitiveness, employment", the Commission communication identifies a number of measures to stimulate the competitiveness of European biotechnology industries, while at the same time undertaking to guarantee maximum safety standards for man and the environment. The Commission is counting on the other institutions, the Member States and interest groups to throw their weight behind these measures. The Commission has therefore decided to: - improve the existing legislative framework by continuing to adapt it to technical progress while maintaining the present basic structure; - continue to work for the fast adoption of regulations to protect intellectual property and legislation on specific products and make provision for an evaluation of the environmental risks; - re-examine the regulatory framework governing biotechnology as and when new scientific knowledge and new regulations in the main countries competing with Europe on the international market so require; - strengthen the scientific opinions at its disposal; - promote the fast adoption of specific R&D programmes in this sector; - facilitate the development of small biotechnology enterprises; - make information on biotechnologies more accessible to the public; - clarify the ethical aspects of biotechnologies with the help of a group of independent experts; - organize round tables in order to stimulate an in-depth debate on the subject.

Biotechnology and the White paper on growth, competitiveness and employment: preparing the new stage

1994/2081(COS) - 14/03/1996 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament adopted the report by Mr Gordon ADAM (PSE, RU)(Mrs Hiltrud BREYER having preferred to withdraw as rapporteur) on 'Biotechnology and the White Paper on Growth, Competitiveness and Employment: Preparing the Next Stage'. The report emphasizes that the biotechnology policy of the European Union as a key area of research, innovation and production can make an important contribution to sustainable development, competitiveness and employment, but must at the same time be in line with other policy objectives of the Union, particularly in the fields of agriculture, the environment, health, technological development and competitiveness. The report also notes that genetic engineering is only one aspect of biotechnology and calls for the development of appropriate research or support programmes for other biotechnology areas. Furthermore, it calls on the Commission and the Member States 'actively to encourage public dialogue by providing comprehensive, accurate and readily understandable information on genetic engineering research and production, its prospects and risks, rather than merely trying to secure public acceptance'. Finally, the European Parliament is in favour of increasing the responsibility of research institutions. The Plenary also invited the Commission to propose measures capable of providing effective support to biotechnology in the face of international competition.