Basic information

1994/2088(COS) COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic)	Procedure completed
Fight against drugs: European action plan 1995-1999 **Subject** 7.30.30.04 Action to combat drugs and drug-trafficking	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
LIBE Civil Liberties and Internal Affairs	STEWART-CLARK Sir Jack (PPE)	26/09/1994

Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
AFET Foreign Affairs, Security and Defense Policy	BERTENS Jan Willem (ELDR)	13/10/1994
BUDG Budgets		
ECON Economic and Monetary Affairs, Industrial Policy	MILLER Bill (PSE)	19/12/1994
RELA External Economic Relations	NOVO Honório (GUE)	04/11/1994
ENVI Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection	BURTONE Giovanni M.S. (PPE)	04/11/1994
DEVE Development and Cooperation	HORY Jean-François (ARE)	30/11/1994

Council of the European Union

Council configuration	Meetings	Date
Health	1845	1995-06-02

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary

23/06/1994	Non-legislative basic document published	COM(1994)0234	Summary
24/10/1994	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
01/06/1995	Vote in committee		Summary
01/06/1995	Committee report tabled for plenary	A4-0136/1995	
02/06/1995	Debate in Council		
15/06/1995	Debate in Parliament		Summary
15/06/1995	End of procedure in Parliament		
03/07/1995	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	1994/2088(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/3/05647

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A4-0136/1995 OJ C 166 03.07.1995, p. 0004	01/06/1995	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T4-0301/1995 OJ C 166 03.07.1995, p. 0082-0116	15/06/1995	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Non-legislative basic document	COM(1994)0234	23/06/1994	Summary

Other institutions and bodies

Institution/body	Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
CofR	Committee of the Regions: opinion	CDR0147/1995 OJ C 100 02.04.1996, p. 0038	21/04/1995	Summary

Fight against drugs: European action plan 1995-1999

1994/2088(COS) - 21/04/1995 - Committee of the Regions: opinion

Although welcoming the establishment of this action plan to combat drugs, the Committee emphasised the need for the involvement of local authorities in any strategy that was to address this problem. It supported proposals for new activities and urged the Union to encourage the development of multi-regional and multi-local authority exchange and cooperation networks. The Committee believed that coordination and partnership were some of the necessary ways forward to tackle this particular problem. It supported the organisation of a conference that brought together the EU institutions, the Member States and representatives of regional and local governments.

Fight against drugs: European action plan 1995-1999

1994/2088(COS) - 15/06/1995 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

In adopting this resolution, the European Parliament called on the Council to adopt the European Union action plan to combat drugs for the period 1995-1999 by giving as much attention to prevention and harm reduction as to the laws and penalties relating to drugs and drug trafficking. According to the EP, this action plan should tackle all links in the chain, from production to education, health and the rehabilitation of drug addicts. It recommended, in particular, that the Commission and the Council study and give serious consideration to possible alternatives to strategies pursued so far, as too often the policies implemented to combat drugs did not make a sufficient distinction between consumers and traffickers. Efforts should therefore be concentrated on cracking down on organised crime which ran trafficking in illicit drugs and by offering more health care programmes for drug addicts. In particular, Parliament called for: - a further increase in police and customs cooperation; - the conclusion of the Europol Convention before the Cannes European Council and the creation of an effective central system within Europol for collecting information concerning the activities, methods and development of organised crime; - coordination of Europol's activities with Interpol and the UNDCP; - arrangements whereby goods seized from persons convicted of drugs-related crimes could be declared forfeit; - measures to simplify and speed up the extradition process between Member States; - measures to tackle money laundering more effectively at Community level. It also called for: - a survey into the state of drugs and drug addicts within prisons with a view to finding alternatives to prison for drug users where other crimes were not involved; - a comparative study of the risk-reduction policies being carried out by cities such as Frankfurt, Hamburg, Amsterdam and Zurich (European Cities on Drug Policy) and the stricter drug control policies being carried out by cities such as Berlin, Dublin, London, Paris, Madrid and Stockholm (members of the "European cities against drugs"). The EP stressed that the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs should be provided with all the technical, human and financial resources it needed in order to operate satisfactorily and called on the 1996 IGC to bring the fight against drugs within the remit of Community policy. The EP emphasised the importance of providing an alternative in supplier countries and pointed out that the GSP should be of direct benefit to impoverished farmers who had previously made a living through drugs. The elimination of crops by aerial methods should only be carried out with due regard to environmental safety and to the living conditions of the local population. Any cultivation of narcotic crops for the first time in new areas needed to be dealt with effectively as this had nothing to do with the "traditional" livelihood of local farmers. Furthermore, any trade agreements made by the EU with producing countries should take into account their willingness to reduce the areas under cultivation. The EP also called for the allocation of confiscated funds firstly to improve prevention policy and harm reduction programmes and secondly to provide better police and customs resources. Finally, it recommended that a conference be arranged to involve the Member States, the European Parliament, the Commission and other relevant bodies to discuss the present situation in the European Union, with emphasis on demand reduction and aid policy assessment.

Fight against drugs: European action plan 1995-1999

1994/2088(COS) - 23/06/1994 - Non-legislative basic document

This Commission communication to the Council and the European Parliament on the Community action plan to combat drugs (1995-1999) presents the mainstays of the fight against drugs in the Community along the lines laid down in the Treaty on European Union, which calls for full cooperation on policy to combat this problem, both under public health provisions and in the areas of Justice and Home Affairs (third pillar). The Commission proposes a global approach covering the three key elements in the fight against this scourge: - action to reduce demand; - action to fight drug smuggling and - international action. . Action to reduce demand: on the basis of Article 129 of the Treaty on European Union, the Commission proposes focusing on: - prevention (information activities for risk groups, health education, vocational training programmes, screening and monitoring); - promoting the social and professional rehabilitation of drug addicts; - help for very high risk groups; . Action to fight drug smuggling under the third pillar of the Community by: - implementing existing legislative instruments (e-mail, exchanges of information etc.); - promoting cooperation with third countries using Community legislative instruments and other relevant international agreements as a model. At the same time, there will be specific cooperation between the police, customs and courts through "EUROPOL" and controls will be stepped up, especially at the Community's external borders. Provision is also made for support measures (e.g. a European forum for exchanges and cooperation between cities, exchanges between professional organizations responsible for reducing demand etc). . Action through both international and multilateral cooperation (cooperation with the UN drug control programme, Pompidou Group of the Council of Europe etc.) and bilateral cooperation (stronger national and regional strategies to fight drugs). This action will also seek to include clauses on the fight against drugs in agreements with third countries and to make this a priority in terms of trade policy (SGP, Lomé). This action is only possible within a framework of closely coordinated action at Member State level, at Community level and at institutional level (coordination with the Community institution in charge of these questions, viz. the "REITOX" monitoring centre).