




Basic information	
1994/2109(COS) COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic)	Procedure completed
Social policy. White Paper Subject 4.10 Social policy, social charter and protocol	

Key players				
European Parliament	Committee for opinion		Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
	FEMM Women's Rights		VAN LANCKER Anne (PSE)	16/09/1994
Council of the European Union	Council configuration		Meetings	Date
	Social Affairs		1813	1994-12-06

Key events			
Date	Event	Reference	Summary
27/07/1994	Non-legislative basic document published	COM(1994)0333 	Summary
14/09/1994	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
06/12/1994	Debate in Council		
20/12/1994	Vote in committee		Summary
20/12/1994	Committee report tabled for plenary	A4-0122/1994	
18/01/1995	Debate in Parliament		
19/01/1995	End of procedure in Parliament		
20/02/1995	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	1994/2109(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	EMPL/4/05880
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Documentation gateway				
European Parliament				
Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A4-0122/1994 OJ C 043 20.02.1995, p. 0004	20/12/1994	
European Commission				
Document type	Reference	Date	Summary	
Non-legislative basic document	COM(1994)0333 	27/07/1994	Summary	
Other institutions and bodies				
Institution/body	Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
CofR	Committee of the Regions: opinion	CDR0243/1994 OJ C 210 14.08.1995, p. 0067	16/11/1994	Summary
EESC	Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report	CES1307/1994 OJ C 397 31.12.1994, p. 0033	23/11/1994	Summary

Social policy. White Paper

1994/2109(COS) - 27/07/1994 - Non-legislative basic document

This White Paper on European social policy ("a way forward for the Union") follows on from the Green Paper on social policy, which sought the opinions of all interested parties in Europe on the shape of European social policy over coming years. This White Paper addresses several subjects: - volume I: main lines of action at Union level over coming years; - volume II: summary of Member States' responses to the Green Paper. The White Paper (volume I) lays down a framework for Union action in the social sector which takes account of past achievements, especially in labour legislation, health and safety in the workplace, freedom of movement and equal treatment of men and women. It also aims to create new momentum by presenting new proposals in both these and other areas, such as social protection, equal opportunities and public health. It also endeavours to stimulate a new partnership between the Member States, the social partners, charities and public bodies, European citizens and international organizations in this changing process. The principles and objectives which need to guide European action are as follows: - economic and social integration, with employment as the top priority; - competitiveness and social progress, which need to go hand in hand; - convergence of social policy, which must respect the diverse social conditions in the Member States; - minimum joint standards, which need to be developed in order to preserve the cohesion of the Union, taking account of different national systems and requirements and the relative economic forces of the different Member States. In order to meet these objectives, the Commission proposes Community legislation and collective agreements, financial assistance and support measures, mobilizing cooperation at Member State level and information on and an analysis of future trends.

Social policy. White Paper

1994/2109(COS) - 23/11/1994 - Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report

Social policy. White Paper

1994/2109(COS) - 16/11/1994 - Committee of the Regions: opinion

Social policy. White Paper

The European Parliament adopted a resolution on this White Paper, the purpose of which is to define the main principles behind the Union's social policy. In its resolution, Parliament called first and foremost for the fight against unemployment to be the Community's number one objective and reiterated the need for greater flexibility in national and European social policy in order to meet the new challenges of the labour market. It also reaffirmed its commitment to the European social model and felt that a bedrock of binding legislative provisions applicable at European level was the best way of achieving social Union. At the same time, Parliament commented on some of the major issues in the White Paper: . action instruments: the European Parliament called on the Commission to make use of the potential of the agreement on social policy (between the 11) and recommended that it implement the Community acquis in this area by paying greater attention to citizens' complaints and, where necessary, by applying the proper infringement procedures where Member States failed to comply with Community legislation; . employment: Parliament urged the Commission to develop the EURES system and to strengthen its relations with the social partners. It also called for a new programme to provide social support for workers taking advantage of free movement (language training, installation and reinstallation allowances); . vocational training: the European Parliament supported the Commission's policy in this area and, more importantly, its intention to involve the social partners in defining a European collective agreement on continuing training; . legislation: it called on the Council to process all the legislative procedures pending at 1 January 1995 and on the Commission to table proposals designed to guarantee equal opportunities, parental leave, voluntary job-sharing (in a framework directive), individual redundancies, atypical work and the right of consultation in enterprises with fewer than 50 employees and of frontier workers and called for a new action programme on health and safety in the workplace; . equal opportunities: it called for the Commission to table legislative texts quickly and to develop measures to guarantee equal opportunities; . trade union freedom and role of the social partners: it reiterated its belief in the European social model and therefore stressed the importance which it attached to the intervention of the social partners. Everything should be done to guarantee trade union freedom and collective negotiation at all levels.