## Basic information

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|---|---|
| **1994/2188(COS)**<br>COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic) | Procedure completed |
| Machinery construction industry: strengthening the competitiveness<br>**Subject**<br>3.40.08 Mechanical engineering, machine-tool industry | |

## Key players

**European Parliament**

| Committee responsible | Rapporteur | Appointed |
|---|---|---|
| ECON Economic and Monetary Affairs, Industrial Policy | GARCÍA ARIAS Ludivina (PSE) | 19/12/1994 |

| Committee for opinion | Rapporteur for opinion | Appointed |
|---|---|---|
| BUDG Budgets | SAMLAND Detlev (PSE) | 16/01/1995 |
| ENER Research, Technological Development and Energy | The committee decided not to give an opinion. | |

**Council of the European Union**

## Key events

| Date | Event | Reference | Summary |
|---|---|---|---|
| 25/10/1994 | Non-legislative basic document published | COM(1994)0380 | Summary |
| 30/11/1994 | Committee referral announced in Parliament | | |
| 20/07/1995 | Vote in committee | | Summary |
| 20/07/1995 | Committee report tabled for plenary | A4-0183/1995 | |
| 19/09/1995 | Debate in Parliament | | |
| 21/09/1995 | End of procedure in Parliament | | |
| 16/10/1995 | Final act published in Official Journal | | |

## Technical information

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| **Procedure reference** | 1994/2188(COS) |

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| **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/4/06181 |

Documentation gateway

**European Parliament**

| Document type | Committee | Reference | Date | Summary |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading | | A4-0183/1995<br>OJ C 269 16.10.1995, p. 0009 | 20/07/1995 | |
| Text adopted by Parliament, single reading | | T4-0399/1995<br>OJ C 269 16.10.1995, p. 0136-0154 | 21/09/1995 | Summary |

**European Commission**

| Document type | Reference | Date | Summary |
|---|---|---|---|
| Non-legislative basic document | COM(1994)0380 | 25/10/1994 | Summary |

# Machinery construction industry: strengthening the competitiveness

1994/2188(COS) - 25/10/1994 - Non-legislative basic document

The purpose of the Commission communication is to study the structures and situation of the European mechanical engineering industry in relation to its suppliers and customers, and to analyse the conditions for improving competition. It comes in response to the request by the Council and the European Parliament for a regular examination of the situation of the European advanced tooling industry and to the European industry's need for a coherent set of measures based on the Union's horizontal industrial policy instruments. The Commission considers that mechanical engineering, which provides over 2 million jobs in the Union, is one of the key sectors of the European economy. Given the serious structural problems facing it, this sector needs to step up its efforts to modernize if it wants to keep its place on the world market. The Commission therefore proposes a coherent set of measures to promote investment, the commercial environment, industrial cooperation, technical harmonization, RDT, vocational training, regional policy, commercial policy and environmental protection. None of the planned measures implies compulsory expenditure and most can be implemented using existing Community or national instruments. As most of the enterprises in this sector are SMEs, their access to and participation in EU programmes and measures needs to be improved. In order to facilitate the implementation of the proposed measures, the Commission calls for dialogue between the European authorities and representatives of the mechanical engineering sector to be strengthened. Finally, the Commission considers that, because of their horizontal nature, the proposed measures will have a positive impact on parts suppliers and machinery users and, in the final analysis, on the manufacturing industry as a whole.

# Machinery construction industry: strengthening the competitiveness

1994/2188(COS) - 21/09/1995 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

In adopting the report by Mrs Ludivina GARCIA ARIAS (PSE, E), Parliament supported the Commission's programme for the mechanical engineering industry. It felt that a basic legal framework should be put in place as soon as possible in order that firms might be able to plan their activities. Community directives aimed at the machinery sector should be rapidly transposed into the legislations of the Member States, with a view to simplifying, at administrative level, the practical implementation of Community regulations. Focusing on the strategic importance of this sector, the report called for measures to be taken to counter the negative effects of European currency fluctuations. Parliament felt that owing to the number of SMEs involved, the programmes which the Community and Member States provided for these companies should take account of the needs of the engineering sector. It called for the Fourth Framework Programme to incorporate the R&D needs of the engineering industry in its sectoral programmes and thought that firms which invested in research should enjoy fiscal benefits. Parliament stressed the importance of training for workers in this area and the need for ensuring that staff were continuously adapted to technological innovation, by making use of Community programmes such as Adapt and Leonardo.

Expressing concern about the loss of skilled jobs in this sector, Parliament advocated the negotiated introduction of a flexible system which would allow employees to be kept at work or reintegrated during periods of economic prosperity. From this perspective, it called for the development of professional training opportunities, flexible working hours and, when justified, a reduction in working time. The introduction of new and more flexible working arrangements should not result in a casualization of labour or a reduction in purchasing power. Finally, Parliament felt that there was a need to develop the European engineering industry's presence in non-member countries, and particularly in south-east Asia, in Latin America and in eastern Europe, by making it easier for SMEs to become involved. To this end, agreements of mutual recognition should be negotiated which would guarantee fair commercial trade.