Basic information

1994/2228(COS) COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic)	Procedure completed
Blood safety and self-sufficiency in the European Community **Subject** 4.20.04.02 Safety of blood and transfusion	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
ENVI Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection	CABROL Christian E.A. (RDE)	01/02/1995

Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
JURI Legal Affairs, Citizens' Rights	PRADIER Pierre (ARE)	22/02/1995

Council of the European Union

Council configuration	Meetings	Date
Health	1845	1995-06-02

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
21/12/1994	Non-legislative basic document published	COM(1994)0652	Summary
20/01/1995	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
02/06/1995	Resolution/conclusions adopted by Council		Summary
20/03/1996	Vote in committee		Summary
20/03/1996	Committee report tabled for plenary	A4-0094/1996	
16/04/1996	Debate in Parliament		
17/04/1996	End of procedure in Parliament		
13/05/1996	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	1994/2228(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	ENVI/4/06355

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A4-0094/1996 OJ C 141 13.05.1996, p. 0005	20/03/1996	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T4-0185/1996 OJ C 141 13.05.1996, p. 0087-0131	17/04/1996	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Non-legislative basic document	COM(1994)0652	21/12/1994	Summary

Blood safety and self-sufficiency in the European Community

1994/2228(COS) - 17/04/1996 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

Parliament adopted the report by Mr Christian CABROL (UPE, F) on the communication from the Commission on blood safety and self-sufficiency in the European Community. Parliament noted the European goal of self-sufficiency and called for the abolition of laws and administrative provisions which prevent the free circulation of plasma-derived products in the European Union. Reaffirming that the human body and its parts are inalienable and non-marketable, it stressed the need to take measures to guarantee maximum safety in blood supplies, but on the basis of voluntary, unpaid donations. It hoped, in particular, that support would be given to blood donor associations and voluntary organizations and called for the organization of a European Blood Donation Day. Parliament also called for common regulations to be drawn up applicable to the whole of the blood transfusion chain concerning the selection of donors, the devising of technical quality tests for screening for transmissible viral infections and identifying bacteria and parasites, the treatment of blood, plasma or blood derivatives (conservation and storage conditions) and its rational use. Wherever possible Parliament intends to promote the use of self-transfusion, for which there should be appropriate information. Parliament called on the Commission to support research activity on blood screening tests and to standardize infectious markers and also to launch and/or support action of all kinds which seeks to encourage the dissemination of information about blood and blood products and collection, treatment and transfusion procedures. It also stressed the need for appropriate training for health professionals. It called for a recognition of the significant safety benefits arising from donors who donate repeatedly and for the setting up of a European Blood Safety Supervisory Body responsible for monitoring blood from the time of collection to the time of use. Finally, it called for consideration of the possibility of harmonizing the granting of licences to organizations involved in the collection, treatment, processing and distribution of blood and blood derivatives in the European Union.

Blood safety and self-sufficiency in the European Community

1994/2228(COS) - 21/12/1994 - Non-legislative basic document

In this document, the Commission reviews both the tremendous benefits from the therapeutic use of blood products and hence the fact that they are indispensable to medicine nowadays, and the huge dangers inherent in blood transfusions in the Community. In this respect, it expresses a number of thoughts on how to improve the safety of transfusions and proposes a series of Community measures in order to reduce the risk of transmission of serious diseases such as AIDS, hepatitis A, B and C, syphilis, borreliosis, malaria and septicaemia. In order to achieve this, the Commission calls first for greater awareness of the dangers of transfusion by increasing the public's awareness of the use of blood and plasma, the precautions needed in order to maximise safety and the measures needed in order to achieve self-sufficiency in blood. It calls on the Member States to apply strict selection

criteria for blood donors and, within the framework of the free movement of blood in the Community, to harmonise donor selection procedures in force in the Member States in order to give a greater guarantee of the safety of blood products of Community origin. Along the same lines, the Commission raises the possibility of harmonising the systems of tests carried out on donated blood and plasma. The Commission would also like studies to be carried out on the use of blood products from the point of view of the patient (especially within the framework of medicinal products derived from human plasma), the donor, self-sufficiency (while guaranteeing optimum use of blood and plasma), good clinical practice and the financial implications. The Commission also refers to the need to introduce a blood surveillance system based on a network of European transfusion centres linked to epidemiological agencies in order to determine the level of risk (and eventually eliminate the risk) inherent in transfusions of infectious blood agents. Next steps: because blood and blood products move within the Community, a Community blood strategy needs to be defined in order to: - draw up scientifically reliable policies and common donor selection procedures in the Community; - use efficient, valid, reliable screening tests throughout Europe; - draw up quality evaluation criteria and good manufacturing practices for collecting and giving transfusions of blood and monitoring patients; - introduce a blood monitoring system in order to compile epidemiological data on the transfusion sector; - draw up educational programmes for health professionals on the optimum use of blood; - encourage the dissemination of information on blood and on blood collection, processing and transfusion procedures through awareness-raising programmes.

Blood safety and self-sufficiency in the European Community

1994/2228(COS) - 02/06/1995

In a resolution on blood safety and self-sufficiency, the Council reaffirmed the need to define a strategy for reinforcing trust in the safety of the blood - transfusion chain and promoting self-sufficiency in the Community and stipulated that the main activities to be undertaken could include: - the development of policies and agreed procedures in the donor selection process among blood collection establishments; - the implementation of efficient, validated and reliable screening tests; - the development and use of quality assessment criteria and good practices regarding the collection, processing and transfusion of blood and blood products and patient follow-up procedures; - development of a haemovigilance system on the basis of existing networks; - encouragement of health professionals to make optimal use of blood and blood products; - the establishment of basic criteria for inspection and training of inspectors; - the dissemination to the public of information on blood and blood products and on collection, processing and transfusion procedures, taking account of socio-cultural differences. It invited the Commission: - to continue its collaboration with the Member States in the search to define a strategy for reinforcing trust in the safety of the blood transfusion chain and for promoting self--sufficiency in the Community through voluntary unpaid donations and to send it regular progress reports; - to continue its cooperation with the Council of Europe in the blood transfusion area; - to submit appropriate proposals in the specific areas mentioned in support of Member States’ action and to encourage the development of a coordinated approach in the matter of blood safety.