Basic information

1995/0149(CNS) CNS - Consultation procedure Decision	Procedure completed
Employment: activities of research, cooperation, analysis and action. Action ESSEN 1996-2001 **Subject** 4.15.02 Employment: guidelines, actions, Funds	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
BUDG Budgets	PRONK Bartho (PPE)	19/07/1995
ECON Economic and Monetary Affairs, Industrial Policy	CARLSSON Gunilla (PPE)	16/10/1995
JURI Legal Affairs, Citizens' Rights	SCHAFFNER Anne-Marie (UPE)	24/01/1996
CONT Budgetary Control	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	

Council of the European Union

Council configuration	Meetings	Date
General Affairs	2070	1998-02-23
Social Affairs	2060	1997-12-15
Social Affairs	1892	1995-12-05

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
04/06/1995	Additional information		Summary
13/06/1995	Legislative proposal published	COM(1995)0250	Summary
18/09/1995	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
05/12/1995	Debate in Council		Summary
16/04/1996	Vote in committee		
16/04/1996	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading	A4-0127/1996	

22/05/1996	Debate in Parliament		
19/09/1996	Modified legislative proposal published	COM(1996)0449	Summary
23/02/1998	Act adopted by Council after consultation of Parliament		
23/02/1998	End of procedure in Parliament		
04/03/1998	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	1995/0149(CNS)
Procedure type	CNS - Consultation procedure
Procedure subtype	Legislation
Legislative instrument	Decision
Legal basis	EC Treaty (before Amsterdam) E 235
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	EMPL/4/07089

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading		A4-0127/1996 OJ C 152 27.05.1996, p. 0004	16/04/1996	
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading		T4-0276/1996 OJ C 166 10.06.1996, p. 0132-0179	23/05/1996	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Legislative proposal	COM(1995)0250 OJ C 235 09.09.1995, p. 0008	13/06/1995	Summary
Modified legislative proposal	COM(1996)0449 OJ C 342 14.11.1996, p. 0006	19/09/1996	Summary
Follow-up document	COM(2001)0208	26/04/2001	Summary
Follow-up document	COM(2004)0149	28/04/2004	Summary

Other institutions and bodies

Institution/body	Document type	Reference	Date	Summary

EESC	Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report	CES1173/1995 OJ C 018 22.01.1996, p. 0109	26/10/1995	Summary
CofR	Committee of the Regions: opinion	CDR0375/1995 OJ C 126 29.04.1996, p. 0019	15/11/1995	Summary

Additional information		
Source	**Document**	**Date**
European Commission	EUR-Lex	

Final act	
Decision 1998/0171 OJ L 063 04.03.1998, p. 0026	Summary

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1995/0149(CNS) - 23/05/1996 - Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading

The European Parliament adopted the report by Mr Nikolaos PAPAKYRIAZIS (PSE, GR) with 286 votes in favour, 7 against and 26 abstentions. It thus approved the proposal for a decision on the Commission's activities concerning analysis, research, cooperation and action in the field of employment, with the following amendments: - the EP wanted the actions taken to be provided with a legal basis according to criteria to be negotiated between the three institutions (and more particularly in accordance with the 1993 Interinstitutional Agreement rather than in accordance with Article 235, as currently provided for); - Parliament wanted the Commission's actions to focus on the exchange of information and experiences relating to the employment measures taken in the Member States, taking account of the suggestions made in the White Paper on Growth, Competitiveness and Employment and the employment strategies developed by the Union; - it also called for emphasis to be given to projects for the identification, transfer and dissemination of measures which directly or indirectly assist the groups most affected (young job-seekers, the long-term unemployed, women and older unemployed persons); - the Commission could also provide financial support for the actions after consultation with the budgetary authority. Moreover, it should guarantee the coordination of the programme with other existing initiatives in the same field by ensuring that the programme has a spill-over effect into all of the Union's policies; - where the programme is opened up to third countries, the additional cost incurred by their participation should be covered by the countries involved, with a financial supplement from the Community if necessary.

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1995/0149(CNS) - 19/09/1996 - Modified legislative proposal

In is amended proposal, the Commission incorporated - wholly or partially - 6 out of the 8 amendments adopted by the European Parliament. The amendments acceptable to the Commission were aimed at: - focusing the Commission approach on the transfer of information and experience relating to employment measures taken in the Member States with particular reference to the suggestions made in the white paper on 'Growth, competitiveness and employment'; - placing particular emphasis on projects for the identification, transfer and dissemination of measures which assist the most vulnerable categories (young job-seekers, the long-term unemployed, women and older unemployed workers), - ensuring the coordination of this programme with other initiatives in the same field, - extending the programme to certain non-Community countries, within the terms of the 1993 interinstitutional agreement on budgetary discipline, with the cost of participation being covered by the countries concerned. The Commission did not, however, accept the amendments concerning: - the incorporation in the decision of criteria for negotiation with the budgetary authority which could have created institutional as well as management problems, - the deletion of references to Article 235 of the TEU.

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1995/0149(CNS) - 26/10/1995 - Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report

The Opinion contained a number of general considerations, which emphasised that employment was a major challenge for the European Union. Recalling the main areas of Community action in this field and the previous work of the ESC on employment and unemployment, the Opinion set out a number of specific comments on the following issues: - the usefulness of the measures proposed by the Commission to apply the Essen decisions with a view to understanding the employment crisis and its causes; - the importance of ensuring workers had access to further training; - the role of the social partners in setting priorities among the measures envisaged by the Commission; - the need to pay special attention to the situation of the groups worst hit by unemployment; - employment and the Intergovernmental Conference.

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1995/0149(CNS) - 23/02/1998 - Final act

OBJECTIVE: the establishment for the period 1998-2000 of Community activities concerning analysis and research on employment with a view to strengthening cooperation and rationalizing actions undertaken at Community level in this area and identifying and transferring best practices. COMMUNITY MEASURE: Council Decision 98/171/EC on Community activities concerning analysis, research and cooperation in the field of employment and the labour market. SUBSTANCE: Following the conclusions of the Amsterdam European Council and in particular the incorporation of a new title on employment in the new treaty, the Council establishes greater cooperation with regard to analysis, research and exchange of information and experience in the field of employment and the labour market. These activities, established for the period from 1 January 1998 to 31 December 2000 and with a financial reference amount of ECU 30 million for this period, should contribute to the development of the coordinated strategy for employment through the monitoring and support of actions carried out in the Member States. Three types of activities are envisaged as part of an integrated approach: - developing the survey, analysis, research and monitoring of the Member States' employment policies and of progress achieved in their labour markets; - promoting exchanges of information, experience and best practices through methodological and technical support; - prompt dissemination of the results of initiatives undertaken and any other relevant information. The Commission is responsible for the implementation of this initiative and ensuring that it is consistent with and complementary to other relevant Community measures. It is assisted in this task by a committee composed of representatives of the Member States. When implementing this initiative the Commission will seek in particular to promote the identification, transfer and dissemination of measures which directly or indirectly assist certain groups particularly affected by unemployment: young people, women , older persons and those affected by long-term unemployment. The initiative is open to participation by the countries of the EEA, the associated countries of Central and Eastern Europe, Cyprus and Malta and Mediterranean countries which are partners of the European Union (according to arrangements to be defined on a case by case basis). The cost of the participation shall be borne either by the countries concerned or under the budget headings covering implementation of the cooperation agreements with those countries. Under this initiative the Commission should establish links with the European social partners and the employment and labour market committee, set up by Decision 97/16/EC. An interim report on the results of the activities is to be submitted to the Council, the European Parliament, the Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions by 31 December 1999 at the latest and a final report by 31 December 2001 at the latest. ENTRY INTO FORCE: 23.02.1998

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1995/0149(CNS) - 15/11/1995 - Committee of the Regions: opinion

In its Opinion the Committee welcomed the Commission’s proposal for the implementation of the ESSEN programme and hoped that emphasis would be placed on policies implemented at local and regional level. It proposed that the Commission should establish direct contact with local and regional bodies for the purpose of carrying out practical cooperation projects of an innovative nature. It regretted, however, that the proposed financial framework was out of all proportion to the size of the problem. It assumed that the proposed systems for data collection, exchange of information and employment studies would be rooted in regional and local patterns and trends. It hoped that Commission support for employment creation would not be confined to methodological and technical assistance, but would be expanded to include support for the financing of innovative schemes managed at local and regional level. As regards coordination with other policies and programmes, the Committee proposed that the Commission should disseminate the action plan widely so that the local and regional bodies working with the Structural Fund programmes could also take into account the activities to be pursued in connection with the Essen programme.

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1995/0149(CNS) - 05/12/1995

Pending the opinion of the European Parliament, the Council discussed the proposal for a decision on Community activities of analysis, research and cooperation in the field of employment for the period 1 January 1996 to 31 December 2000. The objective of the Decision is the renewal and rationalisation of Community activities in the fields concerned, taking into account experience gained from earlier programmes. Specifically the action aims at: - fostering cooperation in analysis, research and monitoring; - promoting the identification of, exchanges of information and experience on, and the transfer of best practices; - developing an active information policy. After the discussion the Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue its work with a view to the text being adopted during the next six months.

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1995/0149(CNS) - 28/04/2004 - Follow-up document

Council Decision 98/171/EC established for the period 1 January 1998 to 31 December 2000 Community activities concerning the analysis, research and co-operation (ARC) among Member States in the field of employment and the labour market. In accordance with this Decision, the Commission submits the final report on the activities carried out under this programme. While not specifically designed as such, ARC has become the essential tool in support of the European Employment Strategy, used by the Commission, the Member States, social partners and other actors. Each of its constituent parts has contributed to the monitoring and development of the Strategy from the underlying analysis of current and prospective issues and the assessment of the impact of Community policies to the interactive process represented by the peer review process and the evaluation of National Action Plans. The programme was effectively complemented by other Community initiatives and the co-operation with outside organisations was very useful. Social partners, due to their networks and their organisational structures, are well placed to compile information effectively and to promote exchange of best practice. Further involvement of the social partners in the programme activities in their fields of competence will further benefit the aims of the programme and of the Employment Strategy. A better use of channels for the dissemination of the results would have further increased the impact of the ARC programmes. More human resources and continuous involvement of NGOs would have helped in making the results of the programme more widely available. Overall, the programme has provided a framework for employment related initiatives in the Commission and supported effectively the European Employment Strategy. The financial support for Eurostat has led to considerable improvements in employment statistics. Further improvements were evident as the continuous Labour Force Survey began to be implemented in Member States. The Labour Force Survey is today considered the most authoritative source of statistical information on the EU labour market. The studies supported by the programmes explore the analytical ground for the development of the EES. The Employment in Europe report provided a solid overview of the trends and key challenges. The Peer Review Process, the European Observatory and cross-country studies have been major contributors to the Employment Guidelines and helped the Member States in delivering policy initiatives effectively. The joint effort of the directorate for Employment in the Commission, Eurostat and OECD to develop appropriate monitoring systems for active labour market policies produced useful results. Further involvement of the Candidate Countries in most of the programme activities would have been beneficial and has been pursued in the subsequent EIM programme. Regarding the management of ARC, experience suggested that a reduction in the number of smaller projects and an increase in project evaluation activities helped in achieving a better focus of the activities and economised on the required resources. A trend that started from the ARC programme and continued in theEIM programme, was the gradual re-integration of key analytical activities within the Commission units. This contributes to a higher quality and coherent policy conclusions. Finally, the knowledge gained managing the ARC programme has been very useful for the improvements in the successive EIM programme.

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1995/0149(CNS) - 26/04/2001 - Follow-up document

The Commission is required to draw up this interim report on analysis and research in the employment field pursuant to the requirements of Council Decision 98/171/EC. A full evaluation of the programme can only be available when some of the major studies are completed during 2001 and in early 2002. The report gives details of studies and activities which have been launched under the broad headings of statistics related work, analysis, observation and transfer of good practice and mainstreaming of employment. Some preliminary conclusions can be drawn. With regard to statistics related activity, financial support for Eurostat has led to improvements in the monitoring systems in the employment field. Improvements are expected when the continuous labour force survey comes into effect in all the Member States, a development for which this programme has done a great deal of preparatory work. On the observation and transfer of good practice, the introduction of the Peer Review process and cross-country studies have been very important to the development of the Employment Guidelines. The joint project between DG EMPL, Eurostat and the OECD to develop monitoring systems for the guidelines has begun to produce useful results. It is clear that such a programme of activities needs adequate in-house resources, particularly in order to exploit project results and draw policy conclusions.

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1995/0149(CNS) - 13/06/1995 - Legislative proposal

This proposal for a decision concerned the Commission's activities concerning analysis, research and cooperation in the field of employment (Community action known as "ESSEN"). This action, established for the period from 1 January 1996 to 31 December 2001, aimed to introduce a new approach to Community actions in this area, which had each previously been dealt with separately. Three measures were to be promoted: - improving knowledge of the labour market and employment policies through survey, analysis, research and monitoring, etc., including problems influencing the creation and loss of jobs; - identifying and transferring best practices through methodological and technical support in researching new solutions to the employment crisis; - developing an active policy for disseminating the results. The programme should be consistent with all EU policies in this field. Participation in the programme was open to the EEA countries, the associated countries of Central and Eastern Europe, Cyprus and Malta, as well as to Mediterranean countries which were partners of the European Union (in accordance with procedures to be defined on a case-by-case basis). The proposal also defined the implementation of this programme and the partnerships with the Member States (including with the social partners and the Standing Committee on Employment). A final report would be submitted to the Council, the EP, the ESC and the Committee of the Regions before 31

December 2001, outlining the results of the measures implemented. In a financial statement annexed to the text of the proposal, the Commission allocated a total budget of ECU 57 million for this action to cover the entire reference period.