Basic information

1995/0155(CNS) CNS - Consultation procedure Decision	Procedure lapsed or withdrawn
Safety, hygiene and health at work: 4th Community programme(SAVE) 1996-2000 **Subject** 4.15.15 Health and safety at work, occupational medicine	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
BUDG Budgets	GREDLER Martina (ELDR)	27/09/1995
ECON Economic and Monetary Affairs, Industrial Policy	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
JURI Legal Affairs, Citizens' Rights	SCHAFFNER Anne-Marie (UPE)	24/01/1996
ENVI Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection	SORNOSA MARTÍNEZ María (GUE/NGL)	18/10/1995

Council of the European Union

Council configuration	Meetings	Date
Social Affairs	1892	1995-12-05

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
05/07/1995	Additional information		Summary
12/07/1995	Legislative proposal published	COM(1995)0282	Summary
18/09/1995	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
05/12/1995	Debate in Council		Summary
26/03/1996	Vote in committee		Summary
26/03/1996	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading	A4-0099/1996	
22/05/1996	Debate in Parliament		
		COM(1996)0652	Summary

09/01/1997	Modified legislative proposal published		
09/06/2000	End of procedure in Parliament		
09/01/2004	Proposal withdrawn by Commission		Summary

Technical information

Procedure reference	1995/0155(CNS)
Procedure type	CNS - Consultation procedure
Procedure subtype	Legislation
Legislative instrument	Decision
Legal basis	EC Treaty (after Amsterdam) EC 308
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure lapsed or withdrawn
Committee dossier	EMPL/4/07088

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading		A4-0099/1996 OJ C 141 13.05.1996, p. 0006	26/03/1996	
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading		T4-0275/1996 OJ C 166 10.06.1996, p. 0132-0172	23/05/1996	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Legislative proposal	COM(1995)0282 OJ C 262 07.10.1995, p. 0018	12/07/1995	Summary
Modified legislative proposal	COM(1996)0652 OJ C 092 21.03.1997, p. 0003	09/01/1997	Summary

Other institutions and bodies

Institution/body	Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
EESC	Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report	CES1300/1995 OJ C 039 12.02.1996, p. 0026	22/11/1995	Summary

Additional information

Source	Document	Date
European Commission	EUR-Lex	

Safety, hygiene and health at work: 4th Community programme(SAVE) 1996-2000

1995/0155(CNS) - 22/11/1995 - Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report

The Economic and Social Committee welcomed the general direction of the Commission programme and proposed Council decision. It was disappointed, however, that the practical objectives of the programme were ambiguous, that the methods of action were in some instances vague and unclearly costed, and that the case for a European occupational health and safety ‘action’ programme had not been convincingly stated. Little or no mention was made of Article 118a, which was the clear and uncontested Treaty provision for improving basic health and safety standards at the workplace. The ESC urged the Commission to incorporate in the programme its unanimously agreed Opinion of April 1994, which on the question of legislation stated that: ‘There must be a review of the existing body of Community occupational safety and health legislation to see which major risk issues are still not addressed by specific Directives’. It was of vital importance that existing directives be implemented in all Member States, in the interest of employees and to the benefit of fair competition between Member States. As underlined in earlier Opinions of the ESC, ‘consolidation of legislative texts ought to involve simplification of standards without any lowering of standards or diluting of existing requirements’. The ESC welcomed the Commission’s attention to the health and safety needs of the self-employed.

Safety, hygiene and health at work: 4th Community programme(SAVE) 1996-2000

1995/0155(CNS) - 09/01/1997 - Modified legislative proposal

In its amended proposal the Commission has generally taken account of the amendments adoptedd by the European Parliament in plenary which follow the Council's approach by limiting the Decision to the SAFE programme (and setting on one side the non-legislative measures in the initial text). In particular, the following amendments have been taken into account which seek to: - make the SAFE programme a Community programme and give it a clearer aim: to improve safety and health at work and reduce occupational risks particularly in small and medium-sized enterprises. SAFE should support at European level actions designed to improve the work environment, work organization and working practices (the Commission takes over the five main aims defined by Parliament in this respect: . the development of practical solutions to workplace risks, . dissemination of best practices for combating occupational accidents, . more effective implementation of Community legislation, . promoting innovative approaches to emerging areas of occupational risk, . promoting education and training aimed at improving knowledge of Community legislation); - ensure the complementarity with the actions undertaken by the European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions and the European Agency for Safety and Health at Work; - improve the procedure for the selection of projects to be financed under SAFE (applications for financing should be submitted to the Commission either by the competent bodies designated by the Member States or directly). In this area the Commission has taken over Parliament's amendment concerning the rate of the Community financial contribution: in general, 60% of the cost of the project and up to 90% for SMEs of less than 50 employees; - clarify the annexes to the proposal: SAFE will give support in particular to projects which meet a certain number of criteria set out in Annex I of the proposal. With regard to the general selection criteria set out in the former Annex III of the proposal, the Commission has taken over the clarifications made by Parliament (in particular: Community added value, relevant to the needs of SMEs, cost-effectiveness ratio, etc.). The additional criteria added by Parliament have also been taken over; - maintain the active role played by the Advisory Committee on Safety, Hygiene and Health Protection at Work (the Commission has not however taken over the amendments on the transparency of this committee's opinion and those seeking to extend the committee meetings to the employers and trade union organizations); - prepare the result evaluation and dissemination criteria for the actions undertaken in collaboration with the European Agency for Safety and Health at Work (provision is made for two reports: a mid-term report on the action undertaken in June 1998 and the overall assessment report in 2001). The Commission also states that apart from this amendment, presented pursuant to Article 189a(2) of the EU Treaty, it reserves the right to present a second text for a Council Decision on the non-legislative parts of its initial proposal.

Safety, hygiene and health at work: 4th Community programme(SAVE) 1996-2000

1995/0155(CNS) - 12/07/1995 - Legislative proposal

- OBJECTIVE: to implement non-legislative measures which aim to improve safety and health at work and to support the legislative objectives defined by the directives which have been adopted in this field. - SUBSTANCE: The programme, which relates to the period 01.01.1996 to 31.12.2000, comprises: - a first part which is composed of: . guideline notes and basic information material designed to promote the correct application of Community legislation (preparation of non-binding legislative guides and studies on the needs of SMEs in respect of health and safety), . information, education and training (awareness campaigns, dissemination of Community documents on this theme, organisation of a European Health and Safety Week), . studies of the main problems affecting this sector. The measures are to be undertaken by the Community, the Member States, the two sides of industry and public and private organisations; - a second part establishing a new programme: SAFE (European action programme on safety), which is devoted to the needs of SMEs. This programme provides aid for practical projects which seek to improve the health and safety aspects of the working environment and the organisation of the workplace, in order to reduce accidents at work and occupational diseases. Aid will be focused on those projects which involve an improvement of the workplace environment, the promotion of innovative approaches to emerging areas of occupational risk and the organisation of information campaigns in this sector. The projects can be implemented by Member States, by the two sides of industry and

by public and private organisations, as well as by individual companies, employers and workers. - Implementation: the Commission is to implement the measures with the assistance of an advisory committee and in close collaboration with the Member States and the institutions which are active in this field. It will be responsible for ensuring cohesion and complementarity with other Community initiatives. A list of criteria for project eligibility is given in the Annex. - Cooperation: cooperation with non-member countries (associated CEECs and EFTA States), and with other international organisations, is encouraged. - Reports: regular information will be provided on the projects being funded and the Commission will be responsible for drawing up an interim and a final report (31.12.2001) on the programme, which will be forwarded to Parliament, to the Council and to the ESC.

Safety, hygiene and health at work: 4th Community programme(SAVE) 1996-2000

1995/0155(CNS) - 05/12/1995

Pending the opinion of the European Parliament, the Council discussed the draft Decision on a Community programme concerning safety, hygiene and health at work (SAFE) for the period 1 January 1996 to 31 December 2000. The aim of the programme is to promote and support at European level practices designed to improve the work environment, work organisation and working practices by: - addressing specific problems concerning safety and health at work, or - identifying and disseminating best practices to combat work accidents and/or occupational diseases, or - suggesting means of effectively applying legislation on safety and health at work in enterprises. The Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue the discussions with a view to the programme being adopted during the next six months.

Safety, hygiene and health at work: 4th Community programme(SAVE) 1996-2000

1995/0155(CNS) - 23/05/1996 - Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading

In adopting the report by Mr Peter SKINNER (PSE, RU), the European Parliament approved the proposal for a decision with the following amendments: - Parliament called, in the very title of the proposal, for a Community programme (rather than "non-legislative measures") to improve safety, hygiene and health at work: SAFE should therefore also aim to reduce risks in the workplace and in SMEs in particular. It should support, at European level, actions designed to improve the work environment, working practices and the organisation of work by: . promoting the development of practical solutions to risks, . identifying and disseminating best practices to prevent accidents in the workplace, . effectively applying existing EC legislation, . promoting innovative approaches to emerging areas of occupational risk, . promoting education and training; - the EP stressed that there should a high degree of complementarity with the work carried out by the European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions and the European Agency for Safety and Health at Work; - applications for financing should be submitted to the Commission either by the competent bodies designated by the Member States or directly. In the case of multilateral projects, an authorised body should submit the application to the Commission. The Community's contribution should not, in general, exceed 60% of the cost of the project. For SMEs with less than 50 employees, the contribution should not exceed 90% of the costs; - Parliament completely redrafted the annexes to the proposal and redefined the objectives of Annex II. As a result, SAFE would support, in particular, projects meeting at least one of the following criteria: . the development of reference workplaces which had developed practical solutions to prevent risks, . initiatives in the field of information, education and training designed to improve knowledge of EC legislation, . guidance on measures to be taken in one or more sectors of activity, . innovative approaches to emerging areas of risk. Parliament clarified the general criteria laid down in Annex III. The projects submitted should: generate a European added value, respond to the needs of SMEs, demonstrate a sound cost-effectiveness ratio, indicate expected results that could be transferred and disseminated, avoid duplicating projects carried out at national level, demonstrate the need for Community funding and demonstrate the financial commitment of the partners involved. Parliament also added a number of other criteria including, most notably, the innovative character of the action, the fact that it affected a large number of workers, and that it promoted social dialogue; - as regards comitology, Parliament called for the advisory committee's meetings to be open to the public and for the minutes to be published. It also called on the Commission to invite representatives of the employers' organisations and trade unions to participate in the meetings as observers and to set up, with the assistance of the European Agency for Safety and Health at Work, an information point to provide SMEs and other interested organisations with information on the projects; - the Commission would be responsible for disseminating and evaluating the results of the projects with the assistance of external organisations and the Agency. Two reports on the programme should be drawn up: an interim report in June 1998 and a final report in 2001.