Basic information

1995/2067(COS) COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic)	Procedure completed
European observatory for SMEs. 3rd annual report 1995 **Subject** 3.45.02 Small and medium-sized enterprises (SME), craft industries	

Key players

European Parliament	**Committee responsible**	**Rapporteur**	**Appointed**
	ECON Economic and Monetary Affairs, Industrial Policy	MEZZAROMA Roberto (FE)	31/05/1995
Council of the European Union			

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
20/09/1995	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
08/11/1995	Non-legislative basic document published	COM(1995)0526	Summary
25/04/1996	Vote in committee		Summary
25/04/1996	Committee report tabled for plenary	A4-0139/1996	
24/05/1996	End of procedure in Parliament		
10/06/1996	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	1995/2067(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	ECON/4/06621

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A4-0139/1996 OJ C 166 10.06.1996, p. 0003	25/04/1996	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T4-0294/1996 OJ C 166 10.06.1996, p. 0233-0238	24/05/1996	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Non-legislative basic document	COM(1995)0526	08/11/1995	Summary
Follow-up document	COM(2000)0376	22/06/2000	

European observatory for SMEs. 3rd annual report 1995

1995/2067(COS) - 08/11/1995 - Non-legislative basic document

OBJECTIVE: to present the Commission's comments on the third annual report on the European Observatory for SMEs, which aims to provide the institutions and private individuals with comprehensive information on the performance of SMEs in the internal market and the factors influencing them. SUBSTANCE: the Commission welcomes the publication of this third report on the situation of SMEs, particularly as it reaffirms the need to promote mutual consultation and joint coordination leading to the exchange of best practices between Member States so as to provide the innovative dynamic and potential of SMEs with an adequate platform. The report shows that in the Europe of Fifteen, there are currently more than 17 million enterprises; 99.9% employ less than 500 people and 93% are micro-companies. SMEs account for 70 million jobs, that is, 71% of all employees working in the non-primary private sector in Europe. The report also indicates that, although the economic environment surrounding SMEs has converged over the last six years in the Europe of Twelve, SMEs are still not reaping the full benefits of the current economic recovery. Compared with the 1988-1993 period, job creation by SMEs is at a standstill. Moreover, there are significant differences in terms of the creation of enterprises across Europe, with a relatively high number of new companies in Germany and Finland and a much smaller number in Italy, Spain and the United Kingdom. It would seem that the differences observed in the economic environment in terms of population wealth and fiscal policies affecting SMEs have a major influence on the creation of new enterprises. All public policies should aim to provide a consistent and transparent framework within which economic operators may compete on the basis of equal treatment. To achieve this, individual support measures to increase productivity, promote competition and improve the flexibility of the market must be stepped up. The report contains a number of recommendations aimed at strengthening the EU's policies concerning SMEs, particularly in the following areas: - a stable macro-economic framework; - an open, competitive environment; - a network of infrastructures, transport, telecommunications and information technology; - greater competitiveness on the part of companies, particularly by improving the education system (promoting the spirit of enterprise) and through better research and technological development; - a favourable environment for companies: creating a better legal, administrative, fiscal and social environment for firms (particularly by reducing constraints imposed by administrative formalities); - support measures for companies (information, training and advice for firms).

European observatory for SMEs. 3rd annual report 1995

1995/2067(COS) - 24/05/1996 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament adopted the report by Mr Roberto MEZZAROMA (UPE, I) on the third annual report on the European Observatory for SMEs, including the eleven amendments that had been tabled. Whilst Parliament welcomed the Commission report, it highlighted a number of specific points, notably the need to simplify the administrative environment without dismantling the current system of social protection, access to public contracts, problems of financing (creation of a European capital market), access to research programmes and the information society and the problem of late payments. On this last point, the European Parliament called on the Commission to come forward with a proposal for a European Parliament and Council directive.