Basic information

1995/2093(INI) INI - Own-initiative procedure	Procedure completed
Economic and political corruption in Europe **Subject** 7.30.30.06 Action to combat economic fraud and corruption	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
LIBE Civil Liberties and Internal Affairs	SALISCH Heinke (PSE)	21/06/1995

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
13/06/1995	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
30/11/1995	Vote in committee		Summary
30/11/1995	Committee report tabled for plenary	A4-0314/1995	
14/12/1995	Debate in Parliament		
15/12/1995	End of procedure in Parliament		
22/01/1996	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	1995/2093(INI)
Procedure type	INI - Own-initiative procedure
Procedure subtype	Initiative
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 55
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	LIBE/4/06674

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
		A4-0314/1995		

Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		OJ C 017 22.01.1996, p. 0006	30/11/1995	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T4-0652/1995 OJ C 017 22.01.1996, p. 0420-0443	15/12/1995	Summary

Economic and political corruption in Europe

1995/2093(INI) - 15/12/1995 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

Adopting the report by Mrs Heinke SALISCH (PSE, D), the European Parliament defined what it understood by corruption, i.e. the behaviour of persons with public or private responsibilities who fail to fulfil their duties because a financial or other advantage has been granted or directly or indirectly offered to them. Taking this definition as a starting point, the European Parliament called for several measures to combat this menace which affected all the Member States and which, especially when coupled with organized crime, posed a threat to any democratic system which respected the environment and was based on a market economy, thus destroying public confidence in the integrity of the democratic constitutional state. While supporting the measures taken by the Council as part of the fight against fraud and corruption at European level, especially in order to protect the financial interests of the Community, Parliament called on the Member States to make bribery and the acceptance of bribes a crime offence and to take measures to encourage people who had been involved in acts of corruption to cooperate with the police and the courts. In order to combat corruption within the European institutions, Parliament called in particular for the names of natural or legal persons convicted on charges of corruption in connection with Community decisions or financing to be published in the Official Journal. Finally, Parliament called on the Commission and the Member States to ban economic operators convicted of corruption from invitations to tender and withdraw their right to any form of subsidy for a give period of time. The Council should adopt a common position establishing guidelines in order for the Commission to draw up a proposal on the harmonization of the provisions and legal procedures applicable in the Member States in connection with offences of corruption. In addition, the Commission should also fight against corruption within the framework of its powers relating to the working of the internal market (distortions of competition due to tax relief on bribes etc.) and present a programme of preventive anti-corruption measures by July 1996. The Court of Auditors should act as a coordination centre for the action carried out by the various national audit offices in connection with offences of corruption. Its remit should be extended to activities under the second and third pillars of the Community. According to Parliament, market operators convicted of and sentenced for corruption should be excluded from competing for public contracts for a given period of time. Finally, Parliament recommended that Member States punish acts of corruption by members of parliament and election candidates by calling for the adoption of a regulation on this matter when the statute of the members of the European Parliament is drawn up (parliamentary duties and private professional activities should be regulated in order to avoid any conflict of interests).