Basic information

1995/2204(COS) COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic)	Procedure completed
Structural assistance: single programming document in France. Rapport **Subject** 4.70.06 Outlying and outermost regions, overseas countries and territories **Geographical area** France	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
REGI Regional Policy	CASTAGNÈDE Bernard (ARE)	18/01/1995

Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
AGRI Agriculture and Rural Development		

Council of the European Union

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
29/07/1994	Non-legislative basic document published	31994D0631	
31/01/1996	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
27/05/1997	Vote in committee		Summary
27/05/1997	Committee report tabled for plenary	A4-0203/1997	
18/07/1997	Debate in Parliament		
18/07/1997	End of procedure in Parliament		
22/09/1997	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	1995/2204(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	REGI/4/06838

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A4-0203/1997 OJ C 222 21.07.1997, p. 0002	27/05/1997	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T4-0421/1997 OJ C 286 22.09.1997, p. 0327-0359	18/07/1997	Summary

Council of the EU

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Document attached to the procedure	34026/1995	28/04/1995	

Other institutions and bodies

Institution/body	Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
EU	Document attached to the procedure	31994D0630 OJ L 250 26.09.1994, p. 0024	29/07/1994	
EU	Non-legislative basic document	31994D0631 OJ L 250 26.09.1994, p. 0028	29/07/1994	
EU	Document attached to the procedure	31994D0632 OJ L 250 26.09.1994, p. 0032	29/07/1994	
EU	Document attached to the procedure	31994D0633 OJ L 250 26.09.1994, p. 0036	29/07/1994	
EU	Document attached to the procedure	31994D0634 OJ L 250 26.09.1994, p. 0040	29/07/1994	
EU	Document attached to the procedure	31994D0635 OJ L 250 26.09.1994, p. 0044	29/07/1994	
EU	Document attached to the procedure	31994D1040 OJ L 384 31.12.1994, p. 0016	09/12/1994	
EU	Document attached to the procedure	31994D1047 OJ L 384 31.12.1994, p. 0041	14/12/1994	
EU	Document attached to the procedure	31994D1055 OJ L 384 31.12.1994, p. 0068	16/12/1994	

Structural assistance: single programming document in France. Rapport

1995/2204(COS) - 18/07/1997 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

In adopting the report by Mr Bernard CASTAGNEDE (ARE, F) on development problems and structural operations in France, the European Parliament stressed that despite its positive aspects, Community structural policy had not succeeded throughout the country in substantially closing the gaps in regional development or in finding a sufficiently effective solution to the problems of unemployment and social exclusion. Corrections were therefore called for, particularly with regard to the use of the appropriations. Parliament took the view that the under-use of appropriations was attributable mainly to excessive centralization, the lack of clarity in the distribution of responsibility among different levels, the excessive inflexibility of the programming process, the slow presentation of projects and lack of information. The resulting delays compelled project operators to provide prior funding, which seriously compromised the success of programmes. Parliament therefore called: - on the Commission: .to clarify and simplify the conditions in which the Structural Funds are implemented, .to make the conditions of eligibility more flexible (particularly for SMEs/SMIs), .to improve practices for monitoring and evaluating programmes; - on France: .to speed up transfers of Community funds to the ultimate beneficiaries, .to respect the principle of additionality more fully. Parliament also called for real efforts to make European regional policy better known (plaques, brochures, etc.). The French authorities and the Commission were called upon to involve local and regional authorities more fully in the implementation of programmes, within the framework of clearer partnership. This should include cooperation among the different levels (State, regions, departments, towns or groups of communes) as well as consultation of private-sector operators involved in programmes and the two sides of industry. Community measures ought to be concentrated better on the regions which were in greatest need of them, and measures initiated in regions with permanent structural disadvantages should continue. In this connection, special efforts were called for in respect of the overseas departments, Corsica and Hainaut. Parliament also proposed a series of measures which would lead to a new approach to territorial cohesion by means of: - Community assistance being provided without reference to average regional GDP, - the establishment of a single planning unit, - the transformation of URBAN CIPs accessible to certain regions with high per capita GDP but serious social exclusion problems (the Ile de France region, for example) into Objective regions (2b, for example), - the redeployment of certain existing programmes, - territorialization of Objective 3 and 4 structural assistance. It considered that job creation should be a priority objective for the selection of programmes and that the Commission should support projects with an identifiable net benefit in the form of new jobs created. On this same subject of employment, Parliament suggested stepping up local employment initiatives. Finally, it was concerned about the renationalization of certain types of aid, and pointed out that the extension of structural policy to future members of the Union must not result in any reduction in the funds available for cohesion policy in France.