Basic information

1995/2216(COS) COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic)	Procedure completed
Competition policy: strengthening international cooperation and rules **Subject** 5.03 Global economy and globalisation 6.20.01 Agreements and relations in the context of the World Trade Organization (WTO)	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
RELA External Economic Relations	KITTELMANN Peter (PPE)	19/12/1995

Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
ECON Economic and Monetary Affairs, Industrial Policy	KATIFORIS Giorgos (PSE)	26/09/1995

Council of the European Union

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
12/07/1995	Non-legislative basic document published	COM(1995)0359	Summary
18/09/1995	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
10/10/1996	Vote in committee		Summary
10/10/1996	Committee report tabled for plenary	A4-0321/1996	
13/11/1996	Debate in Parliament		
14/11/1996	End of procedure in Parliament		
02/12/1996	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	1995/2216(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	RELA/4/06927

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A4-0321/1996 OJ C 347 18.11.1996, p. 0006	10/10/1996	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T4-0598/1996 OJ C 362 02.12.1996, p. 0225-0243	14/11/1996	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Non-legislative basic document	COM(1995)0359	12/07/1995	Summary

Competition policy: strengthening international cooperation and rules

1995/2216(COS) - 12/07/1995 - Non-legislative basic document

OBJECTIVE: the Commission communication presents the recommendations of the group of experts on strengthening international cooperation and the application of competition policy rules. CONTENT: the recent success of the Uruguay Round negotiations and the gradual lifting of state obstacles to world trade which should result from them highlight the need to put an end restrictive practices which hamper trade between the main economic zones of the world, meaning that defining international competition rules and implementing a mechanism for controlling the application of these rules are once again on the agenda. The Commission has therefore set up group of experts to discuss these prospects and help define them at Community level on the basis of the Community's experience in integrating the internal market. In short, the group has issued the following recommendations: - given that it is in their interest to prevent restrictive trade practices, countries or regional groupings need to be encouraged to introduce a suitable set of competition rules and ensure that these rules are applied efficiently. If need be, technical assistance should be provided to developing countries which so request; - the modular approach proposed by the group is a two-pronged approach which aims to: 1) extend bilateral agreements (to include the possibility of confidential data exchange and improve use of the "positive courtesy" mechanism). A "second generation" agreement between the United States and the Community is a priority in this respect. Such an agreement would create the framework for even closer cooperation between the two partners' competition authorities. Negotiating a bilateral agreement with Japan is another step which needs to be taken; 2) create a multilateral framework (to include the elements already laid down in bilateral agreements plus a set of minimum rules, a binding "positive courtesy" mechanism and an efficient mechanism for settling differences). This would initially be limited to the core disciplines and countries (e.g. the Member States of the EU, the OECD, CEECs, Korea, Hong Kong, Singapore, Taiwan), but the domino effect would gradually extend the geographical scope of this multilateral agreement, together with the standards contained in it and the degree of supervision exercised. The group takes the view that, as the two initiatives are complementary and mutually reinforcing, these recommendations can be implemented in parallel.

Competition policy: strengthening international cooperation and rules

1995/2216(COS) - 14/11/1996 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

In adopting the report by Mr Peter KITTELMANN (PPE, D), Parliament called for the early opening of negotiations, in the run up to the Singapore Conference (December 1996), within the framework of the World Trade Organization, with the aim of introducing minimum competition rules in the multilateral world trade system. Parliament considered that the WTO is the most suitable international body to draw up and negotiate international competition rules. Such rules should be based on the principles of non-discrimination and transparency and should relate to the following areas: abuse of a dominant position, anticompetitive agreements between firms (cartels) and merger control. Parliament also called for an international competition authority to be established as part of the WTO.