Basic information

1995/2223(COS) COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic)	Procedure completed
Development problems and Objective 1 structural assistance in the United Kingdom, Meyerside. Report **Subject** 4.70.03 Community initiatives, Community support frameworks **Geographical area** United Kingdom	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
REGI Regional Policy	MCCARTHY Arlene (PSE)	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	31994D0636	Summary
31/01/1996	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
08/04/1997	Vote in committee		Summary
08/04/1997	Committee report tabled for plenary	A4-0126/1997	
23/04/1997	Debate in Parliament		
24/04/1997	End of procedure in Parliament		
19/05/1997	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	1995/2223(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/4/06957

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A4-0126/1997 OJ C 150 19.05.1997, p. 0002	08/04/1997	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T4-0212/1997 OJ C 150 19.05.1997, p. 0017-0057	24/04/1997	Summary

Council of the EU

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Document attached to the procedure	34132/1995	07/04/1995	

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Document attached to the procedure	N4-0134/1997	25/07/1995	

Other institutions and bodies

Institution/body	Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
EU	Non-legislative basic document	31994D0636 OJ L 250 26.09.1994, p. 0048	29/07/1994	Summary
EU	Document attached to the procedure	31994D0637 OJ L 250 26.09.1994, p. 0052	29/07/1994	
EU	Document attached to the procedure	31994D0638 OJ L 250 26.09.1994, p. 0056	29/07/1994	
EU	Document attached to the procedure	31994D1021 OJ L 382 31.12.1994, p. 0069	16/12/1994	

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1995/2223(COS) - 29/07/1994 - Non-legislative basic document

OBJECTIVE: to approve the single programming document (SPD) for Community structural interventions in the Merseyside region (UK) (Objective 1 - 1994-99). CONTENT: the SPD includes the following: - the main development priorities for action to be taken in coherence with the economic and social policies of Merseyside: . action for industry (e.g. developing basic corporations, local enterprises, high-tech, cultural and media enterprises), . action for residents: integration, training, community development and improved quality of life; - the assistance to be provided under the Structural Funds, which has been set at ECU 816 million for the period from 1994 to 1999 (divided into equal annual instalments). This sum is divided between

the Funds as follows: . ERDF : ECU 475 million . ESF : ECU 338 million . EAGGF-Guidance : ECU 3 million; - a number of provisions relating to: . procedures for monitoring and evaluating action taken, . the financial implementation of interventions, . rules for complying with Community policies, . procedures for granting financial assistance. These arrangements are described in the financial statement annexed to the programming document (annex not published in Official Journal).

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1995/2223(COS) - 24/04/1997 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

In adopting the report by Mrs Arlene McCARTHY (PSE, UK) on development problems and structural interventions in the United Kingdom in the period 1994-1999, the European Parliament stresses the need for the British Government to carry out in-depth consultation and a comprehensive review of current procedures in the Department of the Environment before the implementation of projects receiving structural fund support. Noting the need to address problems associated with administrative and financial procedures, it calls on the Commission and UK Government to investigate administrative best practice and introduce improved procedures. Delays in making payments, particularly under the ESF, are considered to be unjustified and more efficient payment mechanisms should be introduced as a matter of urgency. It notes the problem of debt relating to late payments affecting small organizations and the voluntary sector and calls for the creation of advance global grants for the creation of Intermediary Funding Bodies (IFBs) to alleviate the problem. At the same time, it calls for greater flexibility in the use of the funds to avoid underspending. In addition, the funds should be simplified by introducing a clearer applications process and clear and more transparent project selection methods. The impact of Community initiatives should be examined so as to rationalize them and make the necessary adjustments. Parliament acknowledges the importance of partnerships for the effective functioning of the fund and calls for their nature and role to be better defined. It regrets the decline in the representation of local authorities in favour of quasi-autonomous non-governmental organizations and calls for their planning role to be strengthened. It calls on the Commission to take into consideration local partners' wishes in the transport sector and grant them aid on a sliding scale according to the value of their contribution. At the same time Parliament regrets: - the introduction of the 'Regional Challenge' competitive bidding system, - the decision of the UK Government not to participate in funding for the readaptation of workers to industrial change, - the lack of information for the public concerning structural fund aided projects, - the problems of continuity affecting ESF annual programmes and the lack of coherence between the different funds. It recommends the creation of separate funds operating on a regional basis and a review of ESF and ERDF administrative procedures in order to improve their complementarity. Efforts should also be made with regard to selection criteria so as to take better account of industrial change, GDP and the relationship between falling unemployment and non-sustainable employment. Transitional funding mechanisms should be created, together with measures to promote sustainable job creation for industrial regions. Priority should be given to sustainable development and environmental impact assessments should be made a condition for project approval in every case. While welcoming the efforts of the British Department of the Environment to review all current projects in this light, it regrets that this action is being taken at such a late stage. Finally, Parliament regrets the under-utilization of technical assistance funds and urges the government offices in the regions to consider setting up independent secretariats in the English regions.