Basic information

1995/2262(COS) COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic)	Procedure completed
The impact of international developments on the Community's textile and clothing sector **Subject** 3.40.10 Textile and clothing industry, leathers	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
RELA External Economic Relations	MONIZ Fernando (PSE)	31/10/1995

Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
ECON Economic and Monetary Affairs, Industrial Policy	SOLTWEDEL-SCHÄFER Irene Barbara Lilia (V)	21/11/1995

Council of the European Union

Council configuration	Meetings	Date
Industry	1880	1995-11-07

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
11/10/1995	Non-legislative basic document published	COM(1995)0447	Summary
27/10/1995	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
07/11/1995	Debate in Council		Summary
10/10/1996	Vote in committee		Summary
10/10/1996	Committee report tabled for plenary	A4-0327/1996	
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	1995/2262(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/4/07163

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A4-0327/1996 OJ C 362 02.12.1996, p. 0004	10/10/1996	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T4-0600/1996 OJ C 362 02.12.1996, p. 0226-0248	14/11/1996	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Non-legislative basic document	COM(1995)0447	11/10/1995	Summary

The impact of international developments on the Community's textile and clothing sector

1995/2262(COS) - 14/11/1996 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

In adopting the report by Mr Fernando MONIZ (PSE, P), Parliament considered that, in spite of the difficult situation of the EU textile and clothing industry, the sector still has a future as long as it becomes more competitive and as long as the WTO system creates conditions on an international scale for fair and genuine competition. Such modernization should promote diversification, conversion of production capacities, training for employees and greater ecological acceptability of products and production methods. Parliament took the view that modernization of the textile and clothing industry must not only involve classic rationalization, but must also aim to achieve regional diversification, the conversion of production capacity and workers' skills, and more environmentally friendly products and production processes. It considered that the Commission shows an excessive lack of objectivity in its Communication since it proposes no plan of action that genuinely helps to prevent the decline of a major industrial sector in the Community, which still accounts for more than two million jobs. In the event that the timetable for integration into the WTO system were not to be met, the Community's textiles sector must not be 'sacrificed' to other sectors. Parliament called for greater coordination of national research to limit massive relocation and improve the sector's competitiveness. It also called for a more effective campaign to be conducted against fraud and trade irregularities. It recognized that non-compliance with environmental and social requirements and the failure to conform to Community standards on intellectual property and the fundamental requirements of the ILO, as well as minimum standards of working conditions, are important factors in distorting competition in the sector. Consequently, it called on the Singapore Ministerial Conference (December 1996) to initiate a dialogue on the connection between respect for minimum social standards and international trade.

The impact of international developments on the Community's textile and clothing sector

1995/2262(COS) - 11/10/1995 - Non-legislative basic document

OBJECTIVE: to evaluate the impact of international developments on the Community's textile and clothing sector and to examine the possible consequences for the business strategy and industrial policy of the Member States and the EU. CONTENT: the main conclusions of the Commission's

communication are as follows: - thanks to efforts made by enterprises, the European textile and clothing industry will continue to be of major economic importance to the European economy in the future; - the adjustment process set in motion by the sector in order to meet the challenges of the change in world markets and stiffer international competition should be pursued, even if this results in an additional drop in production and employment; - numerous factors will determine the fate of the industry: economic growth in the EU, changes in consumption and the cost of energy, labour and environmental protection, monetary developments, new technologies and preferential agreements between the EU and neighbouring countries; - the repercussions of the integration planned within the context of the Uruguay Round, insofar as they can be divorced from other factors, will not affect the general trends in the sector; - the job losses expected in the future are a crucial problem and therefore deserve special attention within the framework of the EU's employment policy; - the results of the Uruguay Round, combined with the effects of other factors, will have different effects, depending on the products and regions of the EU and account must be taken of this when developing EU policies; - at industrial level, enterprises must review their current strategies and adapt them to the worldwide development of new production and market structures expected between now and the year 2000. The debate on specific the means and methods to be adopted needs to be stepped up. A new political approach needs to be adopted which stimulates exports and satisfies the need of companies (especially SMEs) for qualified labour; - at Member State and Commission level, existing industrial support policy measures which can be applied to textiles should be adapted and strengthened. Absolute priority must be given to finalizing a new complete framework, in cooperation with the interested parties in the sector, which will guarantee efficient liberalization of third country markets. Similarly, specific export training programmes need to be developed and the efficiency of programmes to promote exports need to be re-evaluated from a European perspective. The Commission can act as a catalyst in all these initiatives. Finally, the fight against fraud, counterfeiting and unfair competition needs to be stepped up; - at Community level, additional or complementary measures will only be taken to deal with problems in the sector which cannot be resolved at national level or which would be better resolved at European level.

The impact of international developments on the Community's textile and clothing sector

1995/2262(COS) - 07/11/1995

The Council heard a statement from Mr BANGEMANN on the Commission’s assessment of the impact of the Uruguay Round on the Community textiles and clothing sector further to the Council’s conclusions of 22 April 1994. Following an exchange of views the Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to study in detail the Commission communication on the impact of international developments on the textile and clothing industry so that it could continue its discussions at the next meeting of the Industry Council.