Basic information

1995/2284(COS) COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic)	Procedure completed
Coastal zones: integrated management **Subject** 3.70.05 Marine and coastal pollution, pollution from ships, oil pollution	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
ENVI Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection	COLLINS Kenneth D. (PSE)	09/01/1996

Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
REGI Regional Policy	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	

Council of the European Union

Council configuration	Meetings	Date
Environment	1905	1996-03-04

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
31/10/1995	Non-legislative basic document published	COM(1995)0511	Summary
15/01/1996	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
15/02/1996	Vote in committee		
15/02/1996	Committee report tabled for plenary	A4-0039/1996	
29/02/1996	End of procedure in Parliament		
04/03/1996	Debate in Council		Summary
18/03/1996	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	1995/2284(COS)
Procedure type	COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic)

Procedure subtype	Commission strategy paper
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 148 Rules of Procedure EP 52-p2
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	ENVI/4/07253

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A4-0039/1996 OJ C 078 18.03.1996, p. 0003	15/02/1996	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T4-0098/1996 OJ C 078 18.03.1996, p. 0011-0016	29/02/1996	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Non-legislative basic document	COM(1995)0511	31/10/1995	Summary

Other institutions and bodies

Institution/body	Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
CofR	Committee of the Regions: opinion	CDR0115/1996 OJ C 182 24.06.1996, p. 0012	21/03/1996	
EESC	Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report	CES0890/1996 OJ C 295 07.10.1996, p. 0074	11/07/1996	Summary

Coastal zones: integrated management

1995/2284(COS) - 11/07/1996 - Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report

The Committee's Opinion endorses the Commission's course of action and its analysis. The ESC advises the Commission to diversify its selection criteria in respect of the choice of demonstration programmes, to plan information dissemination activities that can motivate people living in coastal zones, to set its sights on both inter-regional and international cooperation that even involves third countries, to encourage initiatives in the areas of research and innovation and to take action concerning general and occupational training. The Committee refers to the polluter-pays principle in connection with protecting the environment. As there is a great deal of action that needs to be taken, the ESC calls on the Council to create a new horizontal financial instrument, and the Commission to broaden its aims and make them part of a wider-ranging strategy.

Coastal zones: integrated management

1995/2284(COS) - 04/03/1996

The Council held a public debate on this subject on the basis of a Commission communication submitted in 1995. The debate coincided with the 25th anniversary of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, to which most Member States of the European Union are Contracting Parties. At the close of its debate the Council adopted the following conclusions: "THE COUNCIL, Conscious of the major importance of wetlands in the Community, notably on account of the part they play in maintaining biodiversity and as a basis for specific economic activities; Noting the disappearance of a large number of such wetlands in the Community owing to the developments that have taken place there and their non-sustainable exploitation; Noting the continuing degradation of such areas caused by the activities pursued within them or by external pollution spread by the

hydrographic network or other carriers of pollution; Realizing that: - the protection of wetlands corresponds to the objectives of the fifth Community Environmental Action Programme and to the Community's international commitments, particularly under the Convention on Biological Diversity, and also to Member States' commitments under the Ramsar Convention; - the Community has progressed in the protection of wetlands through legislation relating to environmental protection (Birds Directive and Habitats Directive, water quality, treatment of waste, etc.) and a series of programmes (ENVIREG, MEDSPA, LIFE, agri-environmental measures, etc.). It has given particular support to the implementation of the MedWet programme; Noting that all these provisions and commitments have not led to the achievement of all of their objectives for wetlands, owing in particular to insufficient integration between the different policies, especially on funding through existing Community financial instruments, and between the corresponding development strategies; Acknowledging that it is a matter of priority to halt the disappearance and degradation of wetlands, to ensure better management and to improve and restore such areas; Takes note of the analysis, the conclusions and the recommendations which the Commission has put forward in its communication on wise use and conservation of wetlands and approves its general approach; Emphasizes the need for better coordination between Community policies and for better coordination between existing Community financial instruments; Maintains that activities in the wetlands must be pursued in strict compliance with the principles of integration and of regional development based on integrated territorial development, and affirms that projects likely to affect such areas significantly should be the subject of an environmental impact assessment in accordance with the provisions of the Impact Assessment Directive, as amended, or an assessment in terms of their effects in accordance with the provisions of the Habitats Directive, as appropriate. In this context the guidelines for the sensible use of wetlands as agreed by the Parties to the Ramsar Convention [Kushiro, 1993] should also be taken into account; Undertakes to ensure that, when sites are proposed, the NATURA 2000 network is consistent with the need to preserve wetland habitats in accordance with the Birds and Habitats Directives; Considers it necessary to formulate an integrated policy on management of hydrological resources in terms of both quantity and quality within the wetlands and outside them, and draws attention to the possible importance here of the communication on Community water policy which the Commission will be submitting; Recalls the support it gave to the communication on coastal areas in its conclusions of 18 December 1995, and takes the view that, as in the case of coastal areas, insufficient consultation between all levels of responsibility is one of the main causes of the current situation of wetlands; Emphasizes the need to take wetlands into account when drawing up the Community's strategy for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity which the Council called for in its conclusions of 18 December 1995 concerning the Convention on Biological Diversity; Welcomes the necessary research, education and training efforts being made to ensure the protection of wetlands; Stresses the need for the state of wetlands to be observed and monitored and for information and experience in this field to be exchanged, and the role played by the European Environment Agency in this matter, taking account of existing work and mechanisms in this field, particularly under the Ramsar Convention; Advocates coordination and cooperation with third countries to encourage the wise use of wetlands under existing instruments; Expresses the wish that the Community's concerns regarding the wise use and conservation of wetlands should be taken into account at the next conference of the parties to the Ramsar Convention, which must be an opportunity for exchanges of information and experience in this field; Calls on the Commission, in the context of its work on the wise use and conservation of wetlands, to take into account the relevant results of the International Conference on Mediterranean Wetlands in Venice in June 1996."

Coastal zones: integrated management

1995/2284(COS) - 31/10/1995 - Non-legislative basic document

OBJECTIVE: to highlight the main characteristics of the coastal zones of Europe, where the environment is steadily deteriorating in many areas, and to set out the reasons for action at Union level to increase the rate of sustainable development in these zones. SUBSTANCE: the Commission communication has come about as a result of the fifth Community programme of policy and action in relation to the environment and sustainable development, which provides for an initiative responding to the Council's request to draw up a comprehensive Community strategy for the integrated management of coastal zones. Three reasons justify the EU's interest in the future of coastal zones: - the existence of problems at European level that cannot be dealt with by each Member State acting in isolation (common natural and cultural heritage, transfer of pollutants, tourism flows, safety at sea); - the effect of the EU's policies and actions on the equilibrium of coastal zones (regional policy, transport, fisheries, the environment, agriculture, energy, industry, tourism); - the need to exchange experience and know-how in a field where success is still rare and where there is a strong public demand for the preservation of coastal zones. A joint effort between the EU and the Member States is therefore vital to increase the rate of sustainable development at all levels by making legislation and existing financial and planning instruments more effective. The Commission is proposing to implement a demonstration programme aimed at highlighting the practical conditions that must be met if sustainable development is to be achieved in the European coastal zones in all their diversity. It will have two main objectives: - to test cooperation models for the integrated management of coastal zones; - to provide the technical results needed to stimulate dialogue between the European institutions and the actors involved (political authorities, administrations, economic, scientific and public representatives). The lessons drawn from the programme and the reactions to it will make it possible to identify potential additional measures to be implemented at European level and at other levels of decision-making: - establishing criteria and mechanisms to incorporate the environment within the framework of the Structural Funds; - drawing up a draft directive on the strategic assessment of the effects on the environment; - drawing up initiatives relating to other types of zones facing similar problems (urban and mountainous areas). Finally, they will form a response to the EU's commitments to Agenda 21 of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development.

Coastal zones: integrated management

1995/2284(COS) - 29/02/1996 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

In adopting the report by Mr Kenneth D COLLINS (PSE) on the Commission communication concerning the integrated management of coastal zones, the European Parliament welcomed the Commission's efforts at coordination aimed at bringing into play existing Community instruments. However, it regretted the Commission's decision to restrict itself to a non-binding demonstration programme and called on the Commission to unveil at the earliest opportunity a proposal aimed at establishing a Community strategy for the integrated management of coastal zones.