Basic information

1995/2313(COS) COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic)	Procedure completed
Enterprise policy: the future operation of the information and cooperation networks **Subject** 3.45 Enterprise policy, inter-company cooperation	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
ECON Economic and Monetary Affairs, Industrial Policy	HENDRICK Mark Phillip (PSE)	31/01/1996

Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
ENER Research, Technological Development and Energy	QUISTHOUDT-ROWOHL Godelieve (PPE)	26/02/1996
RELA External Economic Relations	VALDIVIELSO DE CUÉ Jaime (PPE)	23/01/1996

Council of the European Union

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
05/12/1995	Non-legislative basic document published	COM(1995)0435	Summary
19/01/1996	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
30/05/1996	Vote in committee		Summary
30/05/1996	Committee report tabled for plenary	A4-0185/1996	
04/07/1996	Debate in Parliament		
04/07/1996	End of procedure in Parliament		
22/07/1996	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	1995/2313(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	ECON/4/07367

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A4-0185/1996 OJ C 198 08.07.1996, p. 0004	30/05/1996	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T4-0389/1996 OJ C 211 22.07.1996, p. 0014-0045	04/07/1996	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Non-legislative basic document	COM(1995)0435	05/12/1995	Summary

Enterprise policy: the future operation of the information and cooperation networks

1995/2313(COS) - 04/07/1996 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

Parliament adopted the report by Mr Mark HENDRICK (PSE, UK) on the future operation of the information and cooperation networks in the framework enterprise policy. With a view to fostering enterprise to improve business and employment, Parliament proposed that the results of the information and cooperation service networks should be harmonized and improved. The report expressed the hope that: - the management of the European Information Centres (EICs) could be reviewed on a regular basis, so that their activities can be appraised in the different regions of Europe; - the information provided to EICs could be reviewed regularly, in order to ascertain the usefulness of the material to target enterprises, and that such centralized information could be made available to SMEs and be consulted by them at a single point (one-stop shopping); - the networks would be equipped to utilize the latest technologies; - the EICs would continue to work with the decentralized facilities (chambers of commerce, local enterprise agencies); - the networks would remain service-driven, rather than profit-driven. Finally, Parliament expressed its attachment to the development and increase in the number of networks serving countries outside the Union, and hoped in particular that the European Business Information Centre would be expanded. It believed that the decentralized facilities should remain in place so as to provide a link to the Commission for those operating on the ground.

Enterprise policy: the future operation of the information and cooperation networks

1995/2313(COS) - 05/12/1995 - Non-legislative basic document

OBJECTIVE: this report on the future operation of the information and cooperation networks in the enterprise policy (EIC, BC-NET and BRE-NET networks) takes account of the current data and critical analysis concerning possible developments before setting out the prime objectives to be met and their operational and financial consequences. SUBSTANCE: the strategic objective of enterprise policy networks is to provide SMEs with an infrastructure for information, advice and support throughout the entire Community and beyond. The Commission report emphasises the significant achievements of the irreplaceable methodology used for the networks, which relies on a broad partnership with decentralised intermediary bodies

which are responsible for a large proportion of cofinancing. Nevertheless, the quality, efficiency and adequacy of resources must be improved to meet the needs of SMEs. As a result, the composition of the networks must be adapted to meet the objectives of developing a quality policy and assessing its results, reviewing the remit of the central structure, with emphasis on encouraging quality and training, and enhancing the network effect and impact of promotion. As regards financing, costs must be rationalised whilst computer and telematics systems must be modernised in order to reconcile local development and the globalisation of trade. SMEs will need to receive greater support when drawing up strategies for globalisation, be better informed on markets and receive effective advice on methods of cooperation to enable them to make the most of the potential of the internal market and new opportunities on the markets, particularly in Central and Eastern Europe, the Mediterranean, Latin America and Asia. Finally, the Commission believes that it would be of benefit for the networks to work in coordination with other Community programmes and other national and regional bodies.