Basic information

1995/2332(COS) COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic)	Procedure completed
Pricing in transport: towards a fair and efficient pricing in transport. Green paper **Subject** 3.20 Transport policy in general	

Key players

European Parliament	**Committee responsible**	**Rapporteur**	**Appointed**
	TRAN Transport and Tourism	SCHMIDBAUER Barbara (PSE)	24/01/1996
	Committee for opinion	**Rapporteur for opinion**	**Appointed**
	ECON Economic and Monetary Affairs, Industrial Policy	SISÓ CRUELLAS Joaquín (PPE)	19/03/1996
	ENVI Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection	RÜBIG Paul (PPE)	24/04/1996
Council of the European Union			

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
20/12/1995	Non-legislative basic document published	COM(1995)0691	Summary
15/01/1996	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
20/01/1997	Vote in committee		Summary
20/01/1997	Committee report tabled for plenary	A4-0012/1997	
29/01/1997	Debate in Parliament		Summary
30/01/1997	End of procedure in Parliament		
24/02/1997	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	1995/2332(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	TRAN/4/07424

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A4-0012/1997 OJ C 055 24.02.1997, p. 0003	20/01/1997	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T4-0031/1997 OJ C 055 24.02.1997, p. 0014-0041	30/01/1997	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Non-legislative basic document	COM(1995)0691	20/12/1995	Summary

Other institutions and bodies

Institution/body	Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
EESC	Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report	CES1261/1996 OJ C 056 24.02.1997, p. 0031	31/10/1996	Summary

Pricing in transport: towards a fair and efficient pricing in transport. Green paper

1995/2332(COS) - 20/12/1995 - Non-legislative basic document

OBJECTIVE: given the urgent need to reduce road congestion, pollution and accidents, the Commission's Green Paper on road transport pricing seeks to inaugurate a far-reaching debate on how to ensure that external costs are internalized fairly. CONTENT: the Green Paper points out that, in numerous cases, there is a clear discrepancy between prices paid by users and actual costs, as regards both price structures and levels. Some users pay too much and others not enough. This trend needs to be reversed and "true" prices need to be established, because prices can be used to guide investments and user choices. A new policy is urgently needed, especially as congestion costs the EU approximately 2% of GDP, accidents cost 1.5% and air and noise pollution cost at least 0.6% every year, representing a total cost of around ECU 250 billion per annum, 90% of which can be ascribed to road transport. These huge costs are paid for by society as a whole which, in the Commission's view, is unfair and inefficient. The Green Paper contains various methods which could be implemented in the short term at national and Community level in order to introduce fair and efficient pricing. They include: - adapting current Community legislation on road charges paid by heavy goods vehicles, - kilometer charges measured electronically and calculated on the basis of the damage caused to roads and bridges, - tolls in congested or sensitive zones, - differentiated taxes depending on fuel quality, - vehicle taxes modulated on the basis of the noise and pollution caused by the vehicle, - landing taxes (for air transport) and rail user taxes (for rail transport), - providing information on the safety of vehicles and means of transport. The Commission acknowledges that some transport policies are formulated at Community level (e.g. standards, minimum fuel taxes) and others are adopted by Member States (road taxes, tolls etc.), which is why its intention in its Green Paper is to inaugurate a debate which should lead to a consensus on the approach to be taken.

Pricing in transport: towards a fair and efficient pricing in transport. Green paper

1995/2332(COS) - 31/10/1996 - Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report

Although the purpose of the Green Paper is to propose a balanced, i.e. fair and efficient transport pricing system, this can clearly be only one of the means of achieving a common transport policy based on market-economy principles. The Committee therefore thinks that shortages and congestion (as in the case of transport infrastructure capacity) should be alleviated (a) by using prices to control demand and (b) by improving supply. Any projected reform of transport taxes and prices must from part of an integrated strategy. In theory, this coordinated strategy covering all transport modes must set the "right" price relationships between the different modes.

Pricing in transport: towards a fair and efficient pricing in transport. Green paper

1995/2332(COS) - 30/01/1997 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

In adopting the report by Mrs Barbara SCHMIDBAUER (PSE, D) on the Green Paper 'Towards fair and efficient pricing in transport - policy options for internalizing the external costs of transport in the European Union' Parliament considered that the Green Paper was a step towards developing sustainable mobility and a first approach to dealing with the problem of internalizing the external costs of transport. The report proposed however that a more comprehensive approach covering all transport modes should be taken and stressed that combined transport in particular must be a competitive option. Considering that the proposed measures were in no way intended to banish the transport of goods from the roads, the report pointed out the need to create equal conditions of competition for all modes of transport so that each of them bore the external costs to which they gave rise. The report considered that the transport policy instruments (taxes and tolls) should be harmonized throughout the European Union. While calling on the Member States to increase checks on the emission of harmful substances, the report called on the Commission to include CO2 emissions and their impact on the environment as a central aspect of the debate on the internalization of external costs.