Basic information

1996/0277(COD) COD - Ordinary legislative procedure (ex-codecision procedure) Decision	Procedure completed
Legal professions : action programme Robert SCHUMAN, project to improve awareness of Community law **Subject** 8.50 EU law	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
JURI Legal Affairs, Citizens' Rights		

Former committee responsible	Former rapporteur	Appointed
JURI Legal Affairs, Citizens' Rights	PALACIO VALLELERSUNDI Ana (PPE)	19/12/1996

Former committee for opinion	Former rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
BUDG Budgets		

Council of the European Union

Council configuration	Meetings	Date
Economic and Financial Affairs ECOFIN	2072	1998-03-09
Competitiveness (Internal Market, Industry, Research and Space)	2051	1997-11-27
Competitiveness (Internal Market, Industry, Research and Space)	1970	1996-11-26
Competitiveness (Internal Market, Industry, Research and Space)	2094	1998-05-18

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
15/11/1996	Legislative proposal published	COM(1996)0580	Summary
26/11/1996	Debate in Council		

28/11/1996	Committee referral announced in Parliament, 1st reading		
14/10/1997	Vote in committee, 1st reading		Summary
14/10/1997	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading	A4-0323/1997	
23/10/1997	Debate in Parliament		Summary
07/11/1997	Modified legislative proposal published	COM(1997)0596	Summary
09/03/1998	Council position published	05195/1/1998	Summary
02/04/1998	Committee referral announced in Parliament, 2nd reading		
14/04/1998	Vote in committee, 2nd reading		
18/05/1998	Act approved by Council, 2nd reading		
22/06/1998	Final act signed		
22/06/1998	End of procedure in Parliament		
14/07/1998	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	1996/0277(COD)
Procedure type	COD - Ordinary legislative procedure (ex-codecision procedure)
Procedure subtype	Legislation
Legislative instrument	Decision
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 66_o-p4 EC Treaty (before Amsterdam) E 100A
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	JURI/4/09850

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading		A4-0323/1997 OJ C 339 10.11.1997, p. 0007	14/10/1997	
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading		T4-0524/1997 OJ C 339 10.11.1997, p. 0407-0414	24/10/1997	Summary
Text adopted by Parliament, 2nd reading		T4-0228/1998 OJ C 152 18.05.1998, p. 0015-0031	30/04/1998	Summary

Council of the EU

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Council position	05195/1/1998 OJ C 135 30.04.1998, p. 0025	09/03/1998	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Legislative proposal	COM(1996)0580 OJ C 378 13.12.1996, p. 0017	15/11/1996	Summary
Modified legislative proposal	COM(1997)0596 OJ C 368 05.12.1997, p. 0006	07/11/1997	Summary
Commission communication on Council's position	SEC(1998)0243	17/03/1998	Summary
Document attached to the procedure	SEC(2002)0157	07/02/2002	Summary

Other institutions and bodies

Institution/body	Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
EESC	Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report	CES0466/1997 OJ C 206 07.07.1997, p. 0063	23/04/1997	Summary

Additional information

Source	Document	Date
European Commission	EUR-Lex	

Final act

Decision 1998/1496
OJ L 196 14.07.1998, p. 0024 Summary

Legal professions : action programme Robert SCHUMAN, project to improve awareness of Community law

1996/0277(COD) - 23/04/1997 - Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report

For the reasons mentioned above, the Robert Schuman Project is particularly apposite, despite the modest funding envisaged. It seeks to make the 100,000 or so judges and 450,000 lawyers in the Community realize the importance of their role in ensuring the application of Community law. The Committee supports the proposal, but it has some specific comments: The project solely concerns judges and lawyers, and excludes all other members of the legal profession. As the Member States have different concepts of the term "judge and lawyer", each should use its own concept. The Committee nevertheless stresses the considerable importance of legal practitioners within companies, organizations and associations as regards day-to-day experience and practical application of Community law. In this context, the Commission proposal already states that "the possibility of extending the scope of the project could be envisaged in connection with the assessment and monitoring arrangements referred to in Article 9". The Committee hopes that when the time comes, such an extension will indeed be considered. Nonetheless the Commission's justification for initially restricting the proposal to judges and lawyers is sound. Firstly, it is necessary to set clearly delimited objectives and concentrate the modest resources available in order to ensure the effectiveness of the scheme. Secondly, the real objective of the scheme is to improve the practical enforcement of Community law by the courts, and this depends on judges and lawyers, and only very indirectly on other legal practitioners. Furthermore, universities and other specialist institutions providing basic training for future judges and lawyers are generally already well aware of the objectives of the scheme, although it

is hoped they will be provided with more effective means for pursuing these objectives. Also, it is the older and more senior judges and lawyers who have proved less willing and able to assimilate Community law. It might therefore be best to make them the priority target of the scheme. ROAD TAXES AND CHARGES

Legal professions : action programme Robert SCHUMAN, project to improve awareness of Community law

1996/0277(COD) - 07/02/2002

This Commission Staff Working Paper assesses the impact of the Robert Schuman project on the legal professions in the Member States. The project itself has been in force from 1999-2001, with the objective of encouraging and supporting initiatives designed to raise the awareness of Community law among the legal profession is the Member States. The initiatives supported relate to three specific measures, namely training, information initiatives and accompanying initiatives. Initiatives could be of a one or two year duration with a maximum grant available of EUR 30 000 for one-year initiatives and EUR 60 000 for a two-year initiative. Each applicant was obliged to commit themselves to continue the initiative for an equivalent period of time without Community support. Some projects are thus still on-going. In terms of the overall level of applications the trend has been towards fewer and fewer applications each year. A further notable feature is that 56% of the applications come from two Member States (Spain and Italy) representing around 26% of the total population of the EU. The types of institutes supported were bar associations universities and the judiciary. Those receiving by far the largest support were the bar association. The Report concludes that the number of projects supported (180 initiatives to the tune of EUR 3.5 million) must have had an impact on the awareness of Community law among the legal professions in the EU. The Project can therefore be deemed to have met its objectives, namely to provide a time-limited boost for the training of the legal professions in Community law. Nevertheless, in view of the steady downward trend in applications, the Report concludes that further Community intervention in this area is no longer justified. This fits in with the overall Community policy of moving away from the funding of micro-projects. More focused support for training actions should continue to be available in the framework of different co-operation programmes in the field of Justice and Home Affairs.

Legal professions : action programme Robert SCHUMAN, project to improve awareness of Community law

1996/0277(COD) - 17/03/1998 - Commission communication on Council's position

In its communication on the Council common position on the Robert Schuman project, the Commission welcomes the Council text, considering that it incorporates almost all of Parliament's amendments.

Legal professions : action programme Robert SCHUMAN, project to improve awareness of Community law

1996/0277(COD) - 22/06/1998 - Final act

OBJECTIVE: to establish an action programme to improve awareness of Community law for the legal professions (Robert Schuman Project) for the period 1998-2001. COMMUNITY MEASURE: European Parliament and Council Decision 1496/98/EC establishing an action programme to improve awareness of Community law for the legal professions. CONTENT: the project has been introduced for three years from 14 July 1998 and has a financial framework of ECU 5.6 million for this reference period. The Robert Schuman Project seeks to encourage and support initiatives to improve awareness of Community law for the legal professions involved in the administration of justice, i.e. judges, prosecutors and lawyers in the Member States. In particular, the project seeks to: - encourage the launch of practical training initiatives in Community law in the Member States (initial or continuing training) by bodies responsible for training judges, prosecutors and lawyers or future judges and lawyers; - encourage the development in the Member States of information resources (traditional or based on new information technologies) in Community law for judges, lawyers and prosecutors; - support initiatives likely to facilitate implementation of the above two forms of support, complement them or enhance their impact. To achieve these objectives, the programme comprises three specific sub-parts intended for support for training, information and accompanying projects. The institutions responsible in the Member States at local, regional, national or Community level for the initial or continuing vocational training for young lawyers are eligible for support (the Decision gives a list of the institutions concerned). The projects are to be selected on the basis of the following criteria: practical use of the measures; their accessibility to the greatest possible number of members of the legal professions; adjustment to constraints of professional practice and cost-effectiveness. Complementary optional criteria such as the inter-professional or cross-border dimension of measures will also be taken into account. The programme is intended to support and complement the activities of the Member States, while respecting their responsibility for the definition of the content and organisation of vocational training. Financial support is intended to complement national financing and not, under any circumstances, to generate any direct or indirect profit. Support will be awarded for a period of one or two years, although the beneficiary is required to continue its programme beyond the period of financing (provision is made for derogations in certain cases if the beneficiary faces financial or statutory difficulties). The Robert Schuman Project should also complement other Community programmes such as LEONARDO (professional training), the Jean Monnet Project (development of teaching on European integration) and GROTIUS (exchanges for legal practitioners) and should be implemented in cohesion with other Community training or information initiatives. Provision is made for periodic monitoring and evaluation of the programme and for a report assessing its implementation after the first two years of application. ENTRY INTO FORCE: the programme will enter into force on 14 July 1998 for a period of three years.

Legal professions : action programme Robert SCHUMAN, project to improve awareness of Community law

1996/0277(COD) - 24/10/1997 - Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading

In adopting the report by Mrs Ana PALACIO VALLELERSUNDI (PPE,E) regarding the Robert Schuman project, the European Parliament approved the programme with the following amendments: - the objective of the programme is to contribute to the effective and uniform application of Community law, - it must be open to all members of the legal profession involved in the administration of justice (judges, prosecutors and lawyers or future lawyers in the Union), - in implementing the programme it is necessary to ensure overall cohesion and complementarity (including budgetary complementarity) between this programme and other Community training or information initiatives - a list of beneficiaries of the project must be published in the assessment report on the programme (1999).

Legal professions : action programme Robert SCHUMAN, project to improve awareness of Community law

1996/0277(COD) - 15/11/1996 - Legislative proposal

OBJECTIVE : the proposal for a European Parliament and Council Decision seeks to establish an action programme to improve awareness of Community law for the legal professions (Robert Schuman Project) for the period 01/01/1997 to 31/12/1999. SUBSTANCE : the Robert Schuman Project seeks to: - encourage the launch of practical training initiatives in Community law in the Member States (initial or continuing training) by bodies responsible for training judges and lawyers or future judges and lawyers; - encourage the development, in the Member States, of information resources (traditional or based on new communication and information technology) in Community law for judges and lawyers; - support initiatives likely to facilitate implementation of the above two forms of support, complement them or enhance their impact. To achieve these objectives the programme comprises three specific sub-parts intended for support for training, information and accompanying projects. The institutions responsible in the Member States for the initial or continuing vocational training for young judges or lawyers are eligible for support (the proposal gives a list of the institutions concerned). The projects are to be selected on the basis of the following criteria: practical use of the measures, their accessibility to the greatest possible number of judges and lawyers, adjustment to constraints of professional practice and cost-effectiveness. Complementary optional criteria such as the inter-professional or cross-border dimension of measures will also be taken into account. It should be noted that the programme is intended to support and complement the activities of the Member States while respecting their responsibility for the definition of the content and organization of vocational training. The Robert Schuman Project should also complement other Community programmes such as LEONARDO (professional training), the Jean Monnet project (development of teaching on European integration) and GROTIUS (exchanges for legal practitioners). Budget : 5.6 Mecus.

Legal professions : action programme Robert SCHUMAN, project to improve awareness of Community law

1996/0277(COD) - 30/04/1998 - Text adopted by Parliament, 2nd reading

The common position of the Council on the Robert Schuman programme was approved by Parliament unamended at second reading, pursuant to Rule 66(7) of Parliament's Rules of Procedure (procedure without report, adoption in letter form).

Legal professions : action programme Robert SCHUMAN, project to improve awareness of Community law

1996/0277(COD) - 07/11/1997 - Modified legislative proposal

In its amended proposal the Commission accepted all the amendments adopted by the European Parliament at first reading, subject to an adjustment to the wording of an amendment on the relaxation of the obligation to ensure continuity after the cessation of Community financing. The amendments concern: - the aim of the programme (effective and uniform application of Community law), - the targets of the Schuman project (legal professionals involved in the administration of justice: judges, prosecutors and lawyers or those training as lawyers), - cohesion and complementarity (including budgetary complementarity) of the programme with other Community training or information initiatives, - publication of the beneficiaries of the project in the assessment report on the project.

Legal professions : action programme Robert SCHUMAN, project to improve awareness of Community law

1996/0277(COD) - 09/03/1998 - Council position

In its common position on the Robert Schuman project, the Council has incorporated almost all the amendments adopted by the European Parliament at first reading which were incorporated in the modified proposal. Only six amendments have not been included, principally those concerned with: - the

importance of uniform and effective application of Community law in the administration of justice, - the role of the legal professions with which the proposal was concerned, - the link between this proposal and the operation of the single market, - budget complementarity and synergy between this programme and other Community programmes. The Council has, however, acceded to the European Parliament?s request for references to the project?s target groups, i.e. judges, prosecutors, lawyers and future lawyers of the Member States. It also incorporated the amendments concerning the duration of the programme (three years) and an amendment allowing for dispensation from the obligation to continue a project beyond the planned period. The Council also made two significant changes to the proposal concerning: 1) the financial provisions of the Robert Schuman project (incorporating a similar amendment by Parliament) and indicating a financial framework for the programme of ECU 5.6 million over three years; 2) the assessment report on the project, which will be submitted two years after it comes into force.