Basic information

1996/2016(COS) COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic)	Procedure completed
Racism, xenophobia and anti-semitism **Subject** 7.30.08 Action to combat racism and xenophobia	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
LIBE Civil Liberties and Internal Affairs	OOSTLANDER Arie M. (PPE)	13/02/1996

Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
BUDG Budgets	GREDLER Martina (ELDR)	11/03/1996
JURI Legal Affairs, Citizens' Rights	ODDY Christine Margaret (PSE)	19/03/1996

Council of the European Union

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
13/12/1995	Non-legislative basic document published	COM(1995)0653	
29/02/1996	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
25/04/1996	Vote in committee		Summary
25/04/1996	Committee report tabled for plenary	A4-0135/1996	
09/05/1996	Debate in Parliament		
09/05/1996	End of procedure in Parliament		
27/05/1996	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	1996/2016(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	LIBE/4/07664

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A4-0135/1996 OJ C 152 27.05.1996, p. 0004	25/04/1996	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T4-0221/1996 OJ C 152 27.05.1996, p. 0014-0057	09/05/1996	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Non-legislative basic document	COM(1995)0653	13/12/1995	

Racism, xenophobia and anti-semitism

1996/2016(COS) - 09/05/1996 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

Adopting the report by Mr Arie OOSTLANDER (PPE, NL), the European Parliament approved the Commission communication as a comprehensive response to the problems of racism and xenophobia. The report endorsed the establishment of a European monitoring centre for racism and xenophobia, as proposed in the final report of the Consultative Commission on Racism and Xenophobia for the Cannes European Council and hoped that this monitoring centre would work closely with the Council of Europe and draw up concrete policies which could be pursued by local authorities, national government and the Union. It also proposed that the Community institutions place great importance on the protection of minorities, particularly in countries applying for membership of the EU, while stressing the importance of coordinating activities in this field with the Council of Europe. In addition, the European Parliament: - called on politicians and opinion-formers to refrain from exploiting xenophobic instincts and to condemn all forms of intolerance and racist statements in their actions and policies; - reiterated the part that civil society has to play in combatting racism and supported the Commission's proposal to set up a social policy forum, while stressing the importance of dialogue between the Commission and representatives of the main religious faiths in Europe so as to develop an anti-discriminatory policy in fields such as health care, education, etc. and lay down anti-discriminatory rules valid throughout the Union; - supported the Commission's idea of including a general anti-discrimination provision in the Treaties and giving the Community specific powers to combat racism; - stressed the importance of cross-border judicial cooperation, particularly as regards publications, racist demonstrations and the information highway; - called for a ban on denial of the Holocaust to be included in the legislation of all Member States; - supported the idea of allowing third country nationals who have the right to reside in a Member State of the European Union the possibility of acquiring citizenship of that country; - supported the Commission proposal to abolish checks at internal frontiers and allow the free movement of third country nationals; - called on the Commission to investigate the specific problems facing the 3 to 4 million persons resident illegally in the EU; - called for special measures to assist particular groups, such as migrants and gypsies; - recognized the role of education in combating racist and xenophobic attitudes, while calling for measures to improve education concerning the historical significance of the Second World War and greater recognition of the role of religious and philosophical education in developing people's consciences. The report also called for the training of civil servants with regard to racism and xenophobia; - appreciated the role which journalists are able to play in combating racism and xenophobia and supported the idea of a media prize in this sector.