Basic information

1996/2030(COS) COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic)	Procedure completed
Higher education: general system for the recognition of diplomas (Direct. 89/48/EEC). Report **Subject** 4.40.07 Recognition of diplomas, equivalence of studies and training	

Key players

European Parliament	**Committee responsible**	**Rapporteur**	**Appointed**
	JURI Legal Affairs, Citizens' Rights	FONTAINE Nicole (PPE)	19/03/1996
Council of the European Union			

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
15/02/1996	Non-legislative basic document published	COM(1996)0046	Summary
27/03/1996	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
28/01/1997	Vote in committee		Summary
28/01/1997	Committee report tabled for plenary	A4-0029/1997	
10/04/1997	Debate in Parliament		
11/04/1997	End of procedure in Parliament		
28/04/1997	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	1996/2030(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	JURI/4/07630

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A4-0029/1997 OJ C 085 17.03.1997, p. 0004	28/01/1997	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T4-0188/1997 OJ C 132 28.04.1997, p. 0303-0311	11/04/1997	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Non-legislative basic document	COM(1996)0046	15/02/1996	Summary

Higher education: general system for the recognition of diplomas (Direct. 89/48/EEC). Report

1996/2030(COS) - 15/02/1996 - Non-legislative basic document

OBJECTIVE: Pursuant to Article 13 of Directive 89/48/EEC on a general system for the recognition of higher-education diplomas the Commission has submitted a general report on the state of application of that system and conclusions concerning the changes which should be made to the system in order to improve the rules applicable in that area. SUBSTANCE: According to the conclusions of the report, which reviews the application of each article of Directive 89/48/EEC and describes the various difficulties which, since it was adopted, have arisen in a number of key professional sectors (the health professions, engineers, teachers, lawyers, accountants, civil servants), the introduction of the system for the recognition of qualifications has led to a new approach to recognition for professional purposes which did not emerge under the sectoral directives. Since the directive was adopted, approximately 11 000 people have been involved in this kind of recognition and the statistics show that most of the applicants achieve recognition of their qualifications (only 5% of applications were turned down and there were very few appeals). However, problems remain in the sphere of academic recognition since certain Member States (in particular Belgium, Greece and Germany) still deny access to a profession in another Member State (e.g. teaching). In particular the directive has changed the situation of potential migrants since it gives them new rights and new facilities. The report notes on this subject that migrants are often aware of their right to recognition but are ill-informed as to the mechanics of the general system. In particular, migrants are either unaware of their rights of appeal or are reluctant to exercise them. At the same time the directive has given added impetus to cooperation between national professional organizations at European level and there have been a number of initiatives aimed at bringing about a convergence of education and training (particularly as regards the engineering profession, in respect of which joint training 'platforms' have been established in order to facilitate recognition. The report also notes that the changes initiated by the directive take time and that it is not yet possible to reach any final conclusion regarding the general system. For this reason the Commission does not intend at present to propose any fundamental changes to its directive. The review of Directive 92/51/EEC, which is scheduled to take place in 1999, will offer an opportunity for a review of the system as a whole. However, the amendments it puts forward will be restricted to the directive before that date. In the forthcoming proposal for a consolidation directive (COD96031) the Commission will also consider: - the possibility of incorporating into Directive 89/48/EEC the obligation to take into consideration, when examining the migrant's application for recognition, post-diploma experience; - the possibility of introducing into Directive 89/48/EEC the concept of 'regulated education and training', which will require a migrant coming from a Member State which does not regulate the profession in question to demonstrate two years' professional experience; - ways in which the role of the coordinators' group could be developed in order to ensure that the directive is interpreted and implemented in a more uniform fashion. In addition the Commission will continue its efforts to ensure that the basic principle of the directive (recognition per se of the migrant's qualification) is respected and that the right to impose the compensation mechanisms contained in Article 4 is not misused. It will also ensure that migrants are fully aware of their rights under the directive.

Higher education: general system for the recognition of diplomas (Direct. 89/48/EEC). Report

1996/2030(COS) - 11/04/1997 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

In adopting the report by Mrs FONTAINE (PPE, F) on the mutual recognition of higher-education diplomas, Parliament congratulates the Commission on its work in connection with its report and acknowledges that significant progress has been made in this area since the general recognition system was implemented. However, it points out that there are still difficulties in certain sectors and therefore calls on the Commission to continue its task of persuading certain Member States and educational establishments. In particular it draws attention to the fact that over 100 petitions have been submitted since the directive came into force and it calls on the Commission to be vigilant in considering these complaints. For its part it takes the view that these increasing difficulties appear to be the result of incomplete transposition of the legislation in the Member States and an absence of a precise

definition of higher education. Also noting that migrant workers do not know how the general recognition system works, Parliament calls for further discussions on this point between the Commission and the Member States' authorities and for greater transparency at all levels. Parliament also condemns the contradiction which lies in saying that the directive can apply only to Community nationals, even though it includes provisions relating to qualifications partly acquired in third countries. Pending the Commission's 1999 review of the general system laid down in Directive 92/51/EEC, it calls on the Commission to submit to Parliament, as soon as possible, limited amendments, particularly to article 4, in order to improve the present system. Noting that the numerus clausus rule in force in certain Member States of the Union may, with the development of Community mobility, eventually pose a problem, it calls on the Commission to undertake a study of this subject.