Basic information

1996/2031(COS) COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic)	Procedure completed
Single market: report 1995 **Subject** 2 Internal market, single market	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
ECON Economic and Monetary Affairs, Industrial Policy	SECCHI Carlo (PPE)	05/02/1996

Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
ENER Research, Technological Development and Energy	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
JURI Legal Affairs, Citizens' Rights	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	19/03/1996
TRAN Transport and Tourism	VAN DER WAAL Leen (EDN)	26/03/1996

Council of the European Union

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
20/02/1996	Non-legislative basic document published	COM(1996)0051	Summary
11/03/1996	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
10/10/1996	Vote in committee		Summary
10/10/1996	Committee report tabled for plenary	A4-0323/1996	
12/11/1996	Debate in Parliament		
13/11/1996	End of procedure in Parliament		
02/12/1996	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	1996/2031(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/4/07632

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A4-0323/1996 OJ C 347 18.11.1996, p. 0006	10/10/1996	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T4-0592/1996 OJ C 362 02.12.1996, p. 0094-0140	13/11/1996	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Non-legislative basic document	COM(1996)0051	20/02/1996	Summary

Other institutions and bodies

Institution/body	Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
EESC	Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report	CES0698/1996 OJ C 212 22.07.1996, p. 0040	29/05/1996	Summary

Single market: report 1995

1996/2031(COS) - 20/02/1996 - Non-legislative basic document

OBJECTIVE: The report from the Commission to the Council and the European Parliament provides an overall assessment of the operation of the single market in 1995. SUBSTANCE: the Commission stresses that completion of the single market is of central importance for the Union, given its potential to contribute to European growth and job creation. In 1995 a growing awareness emerged of the single market's essential role in paving the way for economic and monetary union, strengthening European industry's competitiveness and stimulating economic growth on the basis of sustainable development. In 1995 the Commission's policy was organized along six lines of action, designed to give a fresh impetus to the single market: 1. completing and streamlining the legislative framework of the single market; 2. making the single market work; 3. confirming the single market as the cornerstone of economic and monetary union; 4. securing a single market for the general public; 5. adapting the single market to technological change; 6. preparing the single market for enlargement. Progress has been made in the six areas in question but there is still plenty left to do: even if, in overall terms, the single market works, there are still problems in certain specific areas. Concern persists with particular regard to continuing technical hindrances to trade, legislative gaps in sectors such as taxation and company law, the uneven application of legislation, the need to strengthen competition policy, particularly in the area of State aid and the liberalization of public services, and the calls for compensatory measures as a result of monetary fluctuations. Furthermore, the single market is not sufficiently geared to the needs of the general public. In 1996 the Commission will submit a more comprehensive analysis of the effects and the efficiency of the internal market since it was established. Be that as it may, the priorities for the future are clear. The main aim is to complete the single market for the general public, improve the efficiency of the single market for businesses, particularly SMUs, complete the liberalization of the gas and electricity markets and of telecommunications, prepare for the information

society, speed up work on the trans-European networks and help the countries of Central and Eastern Europe to adjust to the requirements of the single market. A further challenge should also be added to this list: that of simplifying the rules imposed on businesses and private individuals in order to create a genuine single economic and civic area without internal frontiers. The rules should be fewer but better at all levels: local, regional, national and Community.

Single market: report 1995

1996/2031(COS) - 13/11/1996 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

In adopting the report by Mr Carlo SECCHI (PPE, I) on the single market in 1995, Parliament laid emphasis on the measures to be taken with a view to a better functioning of the single market. It called for the creation of a separate service within the Commission charged with improving the coordination of the various policies at the heart of the single market. Noting with concern that in 1995 the Council had still not made any great progress towards adopting certain important legislative measures, and that the measures adopted by the Council in various sectors have not yet been transposed at national level Parliament considered that, among the most serious problems impeding the completion and smooth functioning of the single market the following are of particular importance: - checks on persons at the internal frontiers have not been fully abolished; - strengthening citizens' rights and providing access to the law in cases where the provisions governing the single market have been infringed are difficult and expensive; - the principle of mutual recognition (notably of qualifications) is not fully respected; - progress towards tax harmonization remains disappointing; - divergent application of Community provisions under the Member States' legal systems. The EP regretted that in a number of sensitive sectors the initiatives taken by the Commission have failed to ensure that Community provisions are properly transposed, notably in crucial sectors such as public procurement, insurance, intellectual property and company law, and that in other sectors, such as pharmaceutical products, price control measures laid down at national level continue to distort the market. The EP also considered that a properly functioning single market is a vital precondition for the successful launch of monetary union. It emphasized that industrial circles had urgently called for the opening at Community level of a complaints office charged with helping industry. As regards the relation between the single market and future enlargements, the EP took the view that the single market should not be seen as a protectionist system and commended the efforts made by the Commission to link the functioning of the single market to the rules on international trade. Finally on the institutional level, the EP considered that the IGC should improve the efficiency of the instruments available for the smooth functioning of the single market (large-scale simplification of the rules governing it) and stressed the need to move away from the unanimity principle in areas related to the single market.

Single market: report 1995

1996/2031(COS) - 29/05/1996 - Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report

The Committee notes that progress has been made in 1995 in adopting new decisions affecting the Single Market and in implementing Directives. However the ESC - finds that such progress is not yet enough to compensate for the persistent drawbacks in terms of global optimization, international competitiveness, economic growth, job-creation, currency stability, ease of understanding for ordinary citizens and economic operators; - is also concerned about the effects on the operation of the Single Market of the increasing tendency of the Member States to introduce their own national regulations in parallel with the European Union. - intends, particularly within the framework of its Single Market Observatory, to examine a number of major topics which have been too neglected by the Commission in its report, notably those concerning employment policy, SMEs, consumer protection and environment protection. The Committee calls for decisive action to be taken in the course of the next three years to revitalize the process of completing the Single Market, seizing the opportunities offered by the Intergovernmental Conference, the achievement of Economic and Monetary Union, and the last few years before further enlargement. The Committee would like the Intergovernmental Conference to examine ways and means of extending qualified majority voting to all questions where obstacles to the operation of the Single market are concerned, accompanied by an extension of Community powers regarding the free movement of persons and customs cooperation. The Committee calls upon the Commission, when the latter draws up its report in the second half of 1996 on the impact of the Single Market, to lay down a timetable for adoption of the remaining required measures, based on the key aim of achieving EMU in 1999, and including a methodology for imposing Community convergence on national administrative practices, even if some long-term projects might require extra deadlines.