Basic information

1996/2033(COS) COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic)	Procedure completed
The demographic situation in the European Union. 1995 Report **Subject** 4.10.14 Demography	

Key players

European Parliament	**Committee for opinion**	**Rapporteur for opinion**	**Appointed**
	ENER Research, Technological Development and Energy	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
	FEMM Women's Rights	BENNASAR TOUS Francisca (PPE)	21/03/1996

Council of the European Union	**Council configuration**	**Meetings**	**Date**
	General Affairs	1943	1996-07-15
	Social Affairs	1930	1996-06-03

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
23/02/1996	Non-legislative basic document published	COM(1996)0060	Summary
11/03/1996	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
03/06/1996	Debate in Council		Summary
15/07/1996	Resolution/conclusions adopted by Council		Summary
06/02/1997	Vote in committee		Summary
06/02/1997	Committee report tabled for plenary	A4-0042/1997	
14/03/1997	Debate in Parliament		
14/03/1997	End of procedure in Parliament		
14/04/1997	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	1996/2033(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	EMPL/4/07636

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A4-0042/1997 OJ C 085 17.03.1997, p. 0005	06/02/1997	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T4-0137/1997 OJ C 115 14.04.1997, p. 0224-0238	14/03/1997	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Non-legislative basic document	COM(1996)0060	23/02/1996	Summary

The demographic situation in the European Union. 1995 Report

1996/2033(COS) - 23/02/1996 - Non-legislative basic document

OBJECTIVE: This second report on the demographic situation in the European Union provides a thorough analysis of the causes of the European demographic situation and the implication thereof for the society of the future and it devotes particular attention to the effect of population ageing on social protection and employment in Europe. SUBSTANCE: The main conclusions of the report may be summarized as follows: the Union is characterized by slow demographic growth (disregarding the leaps in population size owing to successive enlargement) and even a population decrease owing to the combination of two factors: a drop in fertility (to between 1.1 and 1.8 children per woman, whereas the generation replacement threshold is 2.1) and a fall in the mortality rate, the age pyramid resulting from the baby-boom is becoming inverted, the consequence of which is a rapid ageing of the population (the number of young people under the age of 20 will fall by 11% by the year 2025, whereas the number of retired adults will increase by nearly 50%) and the emergence of a new category of 'old people', the 4th age (totally dependent people aged over 80). significant demographic differences may appear at regional level (small depopulated areas versus large, densely-populated cities), which will require major changes to be made in terms of health, education, housing and transport, the ageing of the population could possibly be compensated for by large-scale immigration, but that would mean between 8 and 14 times as many immigrants as today entering the Community. - Generally speaking the main implications of demography for the development of society affect employment and social protection: as regards employment: major changes will occur over the next 10 years in the working-age population, with a significant fall in those aged between 20 and 29 (-17%) and a relative increase in those aged between 30 and 49 (+7%). Paradoxically, the fall in the working-age population will not result in a major fall in unemployment. The fact that the working-age population will gradually age will also have implications in terms of productivity, competitiveness (since older workers cost more) and qualification; as regards social protection, the question of funding will be the focus of the debate since the reduction in the number of working-age people (i.e. the basis of social security funding) will coincide with an increasing need for health care owing to the ageing of the population (in particular the large number of people entering the 4th age).

The demographic situation in the European Union. 1995 Report

1996/2033(COS) - 15/07/1996

The Council formally adopted the conclusions.

The demographic situation in the European Union. 1995 Report

1996/2033(COS) - 03/06/1996

The Commission presented the Council with its report on the demographic situation in the European Union (1995). The presidency noted that none of the delegations had any basic problems with the content of the Council's draft conclusions on activities in respect of the demographic situation, as submitted by the Permanent Representatives Committee. However, the UK delegation was unable to consent because of its general position (linked to the BSE problem) on decisions to be taken by unanimous agreement.

The demographic situation in the European Union. 1995 Report

1996/2033(COS) - 14/03/1997 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

In adopting the report by Mrs J. BOOGERD-QUAAK (ELDR, NL) Parliament called on the Commission to develop a new vision of the role of the European Union in the world and suggested that the Member States incorporated the demographic factor in their annual employment reports to the Council. Parliament also commented on a number of points concerning the problems and consequences of demographic changes in Europe: - with regard to the labour market, Parliament called on the Member States and the Council to redefine their economic and social policies in the light of the impact of demographic developments in order to: . increase participation of women in the labour market, . extend the retention of older workers in the labour market, . improve access to the labour market by immigrants. It also called on the Commission to: . establish a research programme on technology and ageing (gerotechnology) to ensure that the elderly remain a benefit rather than a burden to society, . present a study and proposals concerning the effects on employment of tax reforms, notably the shift from labour to other tax bases. - with regard to social security and pensions, it called on Member States to redefine their pension schemes to take account of demographic changes while safeguarding the principle of solidarity between the generations. It called on the Commission to assess the impact of demographic factors on the financial equilibrium of social security. Supporting the conclusions of the report by Mrs Veil on supplementary pensions, Parliament called on the social partners to base their collective bargaining, considering new career patterns, on a different relationship between productivity and remuneration and new methods of recruiting and selecting adapted to the labour market and an ageing working population. - with regard to health care, Parliament called on the Member States to promote the development of innovative and cost-efficient forms of care and to develop a social system of care and assistance for the elderly which correspond to the demographic needs of the future. - with regard to regional imbalances, Parliament called on the Member States to take account of demographic trends in their planning and called on the Commission to submit a detailed study of the demographic situation of the regions of the Union. It also called, in its revision of the structural funds, for regional imbalances to be given due consideration and to incorporate the demographic aspect in the post-1999 framework for the Funds. - with regard to the birth rate, it called on Member States to promote measures to reconcile family and work. Lastly it urged Member States to take account of the need of the elderly for education, culture and leisure activities and called on the Commission to update EU demographic data regularly.