Basic information

1996/2087(COS) COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic)	Procedure completed
Industrial competitiveness policy for the European chemical industry: a model **Subject** 3.40.01 Chemical industry, fertilizers, plastics	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
ECON Economic and Monetary Affairs, Industrial Policy	LANGEN Werner (PPE)	10/06/1996

Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
ENER Research, Technological Development and Energy	HEINISCH Renate Charlotte (PPE)	30/05/1996
ENVI Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection		

Council of the European Union

Council configuration	Meetings	Date
Industry	1962	1996-11-14
Industry	1926	1996-05-20

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
30/04/1996	Non-legislative basic document published	COM(1996)0187	Summary
20/05/1996	Debate in Council		
20/05/1996	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
14/11/1996	Resolution/conclusions adopted by Council		
05/02/1997	Vote in committee		Summary
05/02/1997	Committee report tabled for plenary	A4-0040/1997	
11/03/1997	Debate in Parliament		
13/03/1997	End of procedure in Parliament		

14/04/1997	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	1996/2087(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/4/07842

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A4-0040/1997 OJ C 085 17.03.1997, p. 0005	05/02/1997	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T4-0099/1997 OJ C 115 14.04.1997, p. 0115-0143	13/03/1997	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Non-legislative basic document	COM(1996)0187	30/04/1996	Summary

Other institutions and bodies

Institution/body	Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
EESC	Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report	CES1255/1996 OJ C 056 24.02.1997, p. 0003	31/10/1996	Summary

Industrial competitiveness policy for the European chemical industry: a model

1996/2087(COS) - 30/04/1996 - Non-legislative basic document

OBJECTIVE: The Commission communication is entitled 'an industrial competitiveness policy for the European chemical industry: an example'. Its aim is to identify the main challenges and needs facing the industry and to define a set of actions to enhance its competitiveness. SUBSTANCE: The Commission considers that, although the European chemical industry is among the most modern and most successful in the world, it faces a major challenge - to strengthen its long term international competitiveness by supplying its clients in Europe and abroad with high-quality, environmentally sound and competitively priced products. The actions to be taken by the Commission, the industry and the Member States are divided into four headings: 1) Actions to improve the regulatory framework. These actions should focus on: - consolidating, updating and simplifying the existing regulatory framework for chemical preparations and substances (e.g. consolidation of directives on fertilizers and detergents, simplification of the directive on protection of the health and safety of workers from the risks posed by chemical agents, simplification of notification procedures for new

chemical products); - scientific assessment of the risk posed to health, safety and the environment by the substance, preparation or type of installation, - an appropriate cost-benefit analysis of the options available; - a comparative analysis of similar provisions in force or being drawn up in the most competitive third countries. If a new initiative is needed at Union level, the instrument chosen should be the simplest and least expensive, capable of ensuring a high level of health and environmental protection. 2) Actions to ensure effective competition. The Commission will take account of the global dimension of the chemical industry and the need to continually adjust its structures, when applying the competition rules both within and outside the Union. This will require solutions to the problems of structural over-capacity in some basic chemical industries, further liberalization of the electricity and gas markets, elimination of non-tariff barriers such as dual price systems and import registers, and bilateral and multilateral efforts to conclude new agreements on competition and international trade. 3) Actions to strengthen intangible investment. The growing need for innovative, high-quality chemical products will lead the industry, the Commission and the Member States to concentrate their efforts in the field of RDT, education and scientific training. This will involve collaborative research programmes, greater involvement of the chemical industry in the task forces, improved patent protection, chemistry teaching for young people and scientific training of workers, and training in workers' health and safety. 4) Actions to develop industrial cooperation. The aim is to make it easier for SMU in the chemical industry to gain access to non-confidential technical, economic and legislative information and to promote Community programmes to encourage partnerships and subcontracting. In addition, international cooperation projects should be set up by the industry, with the support of the Commission, to reduce the risks and expand potential outlets offered by markets in third countries (including the countries of central and eastern Europe, some newly independent states, the Mediterranean countries, China, south-east Asia, Latin America, Russia and the Gulf States). Working together with representatives of the European chemical industry, the Commission will pursue a structured monitoring programme, overseeing the development of international competitiveness in the sector.

Industrial competitiveness policy for the European chemical industry: a model

1996/2087(COS) - 31/10/1996 - Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report

The Committee approves the Commission's communication. The Committee shares the philosophy which underlies the document, namely that it is up to the industry to define a strategy for the future, and for the Commission to establish a legal and regulatory framework which facilitates the industry's efforts to achieve competitiveness. The Committee considers that the various areas of action (to improve the regulatory framework, to ensure effective competition, to strengthen intangible investment, to develop industrial cooperation) form a harmonious whole which should be developed in coordination. The Commission will have to adopt the measures needed to ensure that this communication is followed up effectively through the direct participation of the industry and other socio-economic players.

Industrial competitiveness policy for the European chemical industry: a model

1996/2087(COS) - 13/03/1997 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

Parliament adopted the report by Mr Werner LANGEN (EPP, D) on an industrial competitiveness policy for the European chemical industry. Concerned at the loss of competitiveness in this sector and by the growing trend for these undertakings to move their production to third countries, Parliament called for everything possible to be done to maintain the maximum amount of jobs in Europe and that at the least R&D activities should remain in the Union, in particular as a result of increased training and a strengthening of links between undertakings and universities. Parliament called on the Commission to: - submit a proposal aimed at reducing the excessive rules and regulations on innovation in the chemical industry and achieving a minimum level of legislation throughout the EU; - submit, for any proposal for a directive or regulation, an assessment of the impact of the legislation and a cost-benefit analysis, for companies and society, of the use of the best technology available; - conclude multinational investment protection agreements, in particular with developing and newly industrializing countries; - promote as a matter of urgency the infrastructure measures required in the basic chemicals sector to extend the network of pipelines used to transport raw materials and intermediates; - promote R&D activities in SMEs and their access to risk capital in the chemical industry and to submit a specific programme giving priority to environmental innovation. Parliament also called for greater involvement of the chemical industry in the work of the task forces and insisted that the chemical industry should apply the same high standards world wide in the safety and environmental compatibility of its products and production processes. Lastly, the Commission was asked to submit to Parliament an annual report on the coordination of industrial policy with other policies, in particular policy on competition, the internal market and trade.