Basic information

1996/2138(INI) INI - Own-initiative procedure	Procedure completed
Development problems in the Community's most outlying regions **Subject** 4.70.06 Outlying and outermost regions, overseas countries and territories	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
REGI Regional Policy	FERNÁNDEZ MARTÍN Fernando (PPE)	23/04/1996

Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
AGRI Agriculture and Rural Development	ROSADO FERNANDES Raúl Miguel (UPE)	31/10/1995
CONT Budgetary Control	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
INST Institutional Affairs	GUTIÉRREZ DÍAZ Antoni (GUE/NGL)	23/01/1996
PECH Fisheries		

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
22/07/1996	Non-legislative basic document published	B4-0721/1996	
05/09/1996	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
08/04/1997	Vote in committee		Summary
08/04/1997	Committee report tabled for plenary	A4-0128/1997	
23/04/1997	Debate in Parliament		
24/04/1997	End of procedure in Parliament		
19/05/1997	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	1996/2138(INI)
Procedure type	INI - Own-initiative procedure
Procedure subtype	Initiative
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 55
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	REGI/4/08109

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Non-legislative basic document		B4-0721/1996	22/07/1996	
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A4-0128/1997 OJ C 150 19.05.1997, p. 0002	08/04/1997	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T4-0213/1997 OJ C 150 19.05.1997, p. 0017-0062	24/04/1997	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Document attached to the procedure	COM(1994)0476	09/11/1994	Summary

Development problems in the Community's most outlying regions

1996/2138(INI) - 09/11/1994 - Document attached to the procedure

OBJECTIVE: to report on the progress achieved in implementing the POSEIMA programme in 1992 and 1993, the first full years of application of the measures provided for in the programme. CONTENT: under its Decision 91/315/EEC of 26 June 1991, the Council set up a programme of options specific to the remote and insular nature of Madeira and the Azores (POSEIMA). This programme endeavours to take account, in the application of Community policies, of the specificities and handicaps of these archipelagos as the result both of their insular and remote nature and their small surface area, difficult topography and climate, economic dependence on certain products and limited markets. According to the report, significant progress has been achieved as regards the Community's contribution to the economic and social development of the Azores and Madeira using the dual approach of ensuring that these regions benefit from the dynamics of the internal market to the maximum and recognising their real regional situation. This first period has demonstrated that this approach is well suited to the specific needs of these two regions. The Commission considers that this approach should be continued and strengthened, given the final objective of enabling these regions to catch up economically and socially. In fact, over these two years, POSEIMA has basically taken the form of special agricultural arrangements to supply and support local production and specific measures for the benefit of other sensitive sectors of the local economy (energy supply, customs measures, fisheries, handicrafts etc.) which are coherent with and complement interventions by the Structural Funds. Taking stock of these two years of application and the economic and social situation since 1991, the Commission lists the changes and additional measures now needed in order to achieve the objectives of the POSEIMA programme, especially in agriculture and fisheries. The report contains proposals along these lines and proposed job creation measures, taking account of the specific difficulties of these regions. The report lists the Community policies and instruments which need to be implemented in order to help meet the challenges faced by enterprises in these two regions, alongside national and regional measures. According to the report, Community initiatives are needed in a whole series of sectors, especially customs, and it identifies two main intervention priorities which need to be developed in order to respond to local demand: - improving the competitiveness and productivity of local enterprises, especially SMEs/SMIs (training, access to

capital and Community funding and preferential EIB loans, access to new technologies and reduction in the cost of supplying and transporting capital and consumer goods); - identifying outlets on both local and external markets (better positioning of local products on the markets of the Azores and Madeira and support in promoting and marketing local products in the Member States by defining quality standards).

Development problems in the Community's most outlying regions

1996/2138(INI) - 24/04/1997 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

In adopting the report by Mr Fernando FERNANDEZ MARTIN (PPE, E) the European Parliament took the view that the recognition in the Treaty of the concept of remoteness, in legal terms, gave concrete expression to the principle of economic and social cohesion, which was enshrined in the Treaty as a basic objective. It therefore called on the IGC to incorporate in the Treaty on European Union a specific Article on the most outlying regions which stated that: - the provisions of the Treaty and of the law deriving from it apply to these regions (French overseas departments, the Azores, Madeira and the Canary Islands), - the conditions for application of the provisions of the Treaty and those for implementing joint policies are determined by the Council and the European Parliament at the instigation of the Commission to take account of the economic and socio-structural backwardness of these regions, a situation which is aggravated by persistent and cumulative factors such as their remoteness, insularity, small surface area, relief and climate, and dependence on a small number of products, - the Community institutions shall ensure that these regions are allowed to develop economically and socially so that they are freed of their dependence on monocultures. Parliament also called for a protocol to be appended to the Treaty, which specified that: - the new Article of the Treaty shall establish the legal basis for determining the special conditions for its application in the most outlying regions and for adopting particular legal measures deriving from it, - however, given the economic and social backwardness of these regions, the Council and European Parliament shall determine the conditions for the application of the provisions of the Treaty and other specific conditions of implementation to promote these regions; - in addition to structural interventions, support must be provided by adapting common policies to regional realities; - actions already undertaken within the framework of the POSEI programmes must be strengthened and intensified; - the provisions of the new Article shall refer in particular to customs and commercial policies (free zones), fiscal policy (harmonious development based on local produce and the promotion of investment), environmental protection (conservation, restoration, coastal rehabilitation, waste water treatment, waste treatment policy, use of renewable energies), agricultural and fisheries policies (support for production and promotion of diversification, preventing small-scale production from being destabilized by pressure from multinationals) and the supply of raw materials and essential consumer goods; - the special features of each region shall be taken into account (including State aid schemes); - the conditions of access to EU horizontal programmes shall be taken into consideration, particularly in areas such as the information society, energy, the environment, professional training, tourism, business policy (particularly access to financing) and R&D. At the same time Parliament called on the Commission to draw up a communication identifying those areas likely to be of interest to external markets, together with the adaptation and reconversion measures needed to exploit the opportunities offered by these markets. Finally, Parliament advocated that, given their specific character, the most outlying regions of the EU should continue to benefit from priority assistance when the Structural Funds was being revised.