Basic information

1996/2236(INI) INI - Own-initiative procedure	Procedure completed
Improving the operation of the Institutions without amending the Treaty **Subject** 8.40 Institutions of the Union	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
INST Institutional Affairs	HERMAN Fernand H.J. (PPE)	29/05/1996

Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
BUDG Budgets	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	23/09/1997
ECON Economic and Monetary Affairs, Industrial Policy	RANDZIO-PLATH Christa (PSE)	17/12/1997

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
15/11/1996	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
16/03/1998	Vote in committee		Summary
16/03/1998	Committee report tabled for plenary	A4-0117/1998	
14/05/1998	Debate in Parliament		
14/05/1998	End of procedure in Parliament		
01/06/1998	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	1996/2236(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	INST/4/08421

Documentation gateway				
European Parliament				
Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A4-0117/1998 OJ C 138 04.05.1998, p. 0006	16/03/1998	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T4-0285/1998 OJ C 167 01.06.1998, p. 0175-0211	14/05/1998	Summary

Improving the operation of the Institutions without amending the Treaty

1996/2236(INI) - 14/05/1998 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

In adopting the report by Mr Fernand HERMAN (EPP, B) Parliament considered it unacceptable that there were policy areas in which democratic control had been taken away from national parliaments and had not been replaced by scrutiny by the European Parliament, in particular Economic and Monetary Union, but also the common commercial policy, agreements stemming from the Euratom Treaty, agricultural policy, development cooperation policy, competition policy and the implementation of collective agreements negotiated between the social partners. This problem had not been resolved by the Amsterdam Treaty nor, as regards employment, by the compromises of the Amsterdam and Luxembourg European Councils. The same question of democratic accountability arose with regard to the European Central Bank. In order to deal with this shortfall, until a future intergovernmental conference Parliament considered that the conclusion of interinstitutional agreements was the most appropriate method of achieving the objective of strengthening democratic accountability at Union level. With regard to Economic and Monetary Union Parliament proposed a new interinstitutional agreement dealing with procedures setting out the broad economic policy guidelines, multilateral surveillance and the excessive deficit procedure. It also advocated the conclusion of interinstitutional agreements and systematic information to Parliament on external economic policy and in particular agreements based on Article 113 of the Treaty, international agreements under the Euratom Treaty, development cooperation, international fisheries agreements, collective agreements between the social partners (such as those on parental leave and on part-time work) and on the ad hoc procedure for agricultural expenditure. It asked the Commission and the Council to take account of the fact that the conclusion of any international agreement with financial implications required at the very least the prior consultation of the budgetary authority and its assent if the financial implications were significant. It also called for improved information on competition policy, in particular through the regular information meetings with the relevant Commissioner and a code of conduct with regard to fiscal policy.