Basic information

1996/2258(COS) COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic)	Procedure completed
Trafficking in women for the purpose of sexual exploitation **Subject** 4.10.09 Women condition and rights 7.30.30.02 Action to combat violence, trafficking in human beings and migrant smuggling	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
FEMM Women's Rights	WADDINGTON Susan A. (PSE)	25/02/1997

Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
DEVE Development and Cooperation		
LIBE Civil Liberties and Internal Affairs	COLOMBO SVEVO Maria Paola (PPE)	28/01/1997

Council of the European Union

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
20/11/1996	Non-legislative basic document published	COM(1996)0567	Summary
09/12/1996	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
25/11/1997	Vote in committee		Summary
25/11/1997	Committee report tabled for plenary	A4-0372/1997	
15/12/1997	Debate in Parliament		
16/12/1997	End of procedure in Parliament		
19/01/1998	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	1996/2258(COS)
Procedure type	COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic)
Procedure subtype	Commission strategy paper
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 148 Rules of Procedure EP 050
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	FEMM/4/08453

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A4-0372/1997 OJ C 388 22.12.1997, p. 0002	25/11/1997	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T4-0612/1997 OJ C 014 19.01.1998, p. 0019-0039	16/12/1997	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Non-legislative basic document	COM(1996)0567	20/11/1996	Summary

Trafficking in women for the purpose of sexual exploitation

1996/2258(COS) - 20/11/1996 - Non-legislative basic document

OBJECTIVE: this document seeks to define a coherent European approach to the trafficking in women for the purpose of sexual exploitation and it puts forward its proposals for political debate in the appropriate bodies. At the same time, while taking account of the actions envisaged in the framework of the third pillar it seeks to identify concrete and rapidly achievable proposals. SUBSTANCE: after a brief description of the causes and implications of trafficking in women for the purpose of sexual exploitation in Europe, the Commission seeks to define an integrated policy operating at Community and Member State level through the third pillar (JHA). The initiatives proposed by the Commission are characterised by the following points: - interdisciplinary initiatives: . adoption of the STOP programme (Sexual Trafficking of Persons) in the framework of the third pillar, seeking to improve information about data and research in this field; . improved collection and distribution of data in the Member States; . improved cooperation and coordination of the work undertaken by international bodies (in particular the Council of Europe); . implementation of information and awareness campaigns financed by the Community; - immigration: . development of training courses for staff of national immigration services; . issue of temporary permits of stay for victims prepared to act as witnesses in judicial proceedings and coordination measures between judicial and police departments to avoid their expulsion; - judicial cooperation: . improvement of existing international instruments on protection against trafficking in women; . improvement of national legislation in order to take greater account of women trafficked from abroad; . creation of a new European Union legal instrument: joint action by the Member States intended to improve judicial cooperation to combat trafficking in women and introducing extraterritorial jurisdictional provisions; . strengthening of sanctions; - police cooperation: . improved exchange of communication between police authorities, in particular under Europol, and the creation of a list of specialists in the fight against crime (list of contact points for the police forces); . training of police services (inclusion of training modules in the STOP programme) and provision of joint courses for police services from the Member States; . strengthening cooperation and exchange of information with third countries, in particular within the framework of Europol; - social and employment dimension: . strengthening of preventive information: public awareness and information campaigns; . provision of social assistance programmes for victims, action against social exclusion and reintegration programmes; . creation of reception and rehabilitation centres; . as regards employment: monitoring of working conditions of au pair girls, bar employees and employees in health institutes and checking the criteria applied by employers in the context of the right of establishment in the EU; . provision of local and national training programmes for social and health personnel. - the Commission also proposes initiatives seeking to strengthen cooperation with third countries. The main concern is to provide for the inclusion in certain framework agreements with third countries of discussion on the trafficking in women and the way in which partners can work together . Other actions are envisaged, in particular with: . the PHARE and TACIS countries: the establishment through the Democracy Programme of projects concentrating on women and their status in society in the CEEC. Police and judicial cooperation could also be strengthened with these countries; . the ACP

countries: provision of measures under the EDF such as improvement of legislation, judicial and police training, public awareness for the problem of trafficking in women; support for pilot projects with NGOs on the reintegration of victims, . the ALA/MED countries: provision of measures seeking the reinsertion of women in society in particular under MEDA (inclusion of a project on action against trafficking in women and prevention); work in collaboration with the NGOs active in this field (in particular in the ALA countries).

Trafficking in women for the purpose of sexual exploitation

1996/2258(COS) - 16/12/1997 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

In adopting the report by Mrs Susan A. WADDINGTON (PSE, UK) on trafficking in women Parliament denounced this scourge and considered that it was indispensable for a task force to be set up in the Commission in order to implement the action points listed in the Commission communication. Parliament considered it of paramount importance that all Member States implemented in full the joint action adopted on 24 February 1997 on action to combat trafficking in human beings and sexual exploitation of children and to carry through into practice the commitments made at The Hague in April 1997 on trafficking in women. An active initiating and coordinating policy was needed on the basis, inter alia, of Articles 29 and 34 of the new Treaty of Amsterdam and a convention should be established providing for sanctions reflecting the seriousness of the offence of trafficking in human beings. Member States should also adopt a multidisciplinary approach and improve coordination with a view to combating trafficking in women. Bearing in mind that women from third countries were the primary (but not the only) victims of this scourge, Parliament considered that they should receive special support in terms of social, health and psychological care, emergency telephone lines, legal assistance, safe houses and temporary residence status and advice on their right of asylum. They should also be provided with information on the possibility of damage compensation. Parliament also underlined the prevention of trafficking in women and the adoption of penalties commensurate with the severity of the crime. Member States were called on to implement measures to apply the principle of extra-territoriality to individuals and organizations implicated in trafficking in women, to provide the possibility in law of active prosecution of these people and to make a punishable offence the taking away of travel documents against the will of the holder. The Commission should give priority to these actions in all its development aid programmes (countries of central and eastern Europe, Asia, Latin America, ACP countries and Mediterranean countries). In budgetary terms, the appropriations intended for action against this problem under the Stop programme should be increased and should be used for the detection and prosecution of traffickers. The funds should also be used for training, information to victims and prevention and reintegration of victims. Additional funding and a legal basis were also required for the Daphne programme concerning the sexual exploitation of children. Lastly, Parliament called for an increase in funds for Phare and Tacis in relation to the fight against trafficking in women. With regard to prevention, Parliament considered that all the Member States' embassies in third countries should provide information on the dangers of recruitment into the entertainment business targeted at women. Accompanying measures should also be planned for women from third countries who were victims of sexual exploitation in the Community and who returned to their country of origin. Coordinated information campaigns were required to inform women about the mechanisms and networks established in relation to trafficking in women. Lastly, Parliament called for greater powers for the EIS and Europol with regard to the fight against trafficking in women.