Basic information

1997/2046(INI) INI - Own-initiative procedure	Procedure completed
Justice and home affairs: consequences of enlargement **Subject** 8.20.32 Justice JHA and enlargement	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
LIBE Civil Liberties and Internal Affairs	POSSELT Bernd (PPE)	29/01/1997

Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
BUDG Budgets	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	23/09/1997
INST Institutional Affairs	SPAAK Antoinette (ELDR)	02/07/1997

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
14/03/1997	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
18/03/1998	Vote in committee		Summary
18/03/1998	Committee report tabled for plenary	A4-0107/1998	
02/04/1998	Debate in Parliament		
03/04/1998	End of procedure in Parliament		
04/05/1998	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	1997/2046(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	LIBE/4/08722

Documentation gateway				
European Parliament				
Document type	**Committee**	**Reference**	**Date**	**Summary**
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A4-0107/1998 OJ C 138 04.05.1998, p. 0005	18/03/1998	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T4-0219/1998 OJ C 138 04.05.1998, p. 0201-0214	03/04/1998	Summary

Justice and home affairs: consequences of enlargement

1997/2046(INI) - 03/04/1998 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

In adopting the report by Mr Bernd POSSELT (EPP, D) on the implications of enlargement for cooperation in the field of justice and home affairs, Parliament called on the Commission to place particular emphasis, in the ten applicant countries, on promoting and reinforcing fundamental freedoms and human rights, progress concerning the implementation of the convention on the rights of the child, the rights of minorities, the consolidation of the rule of law, the elimination of all forms of discrimination, the permanent abolition of the death penalty and the wholesale adoption of the acquis communautaire in the field of justice and home affairs. It called in particular for the police and judicial cooperation provided for under Title VI of the Amsterdam Treaty to be extended as far as possible to the applicant countries in Central and Eastern Europe, especially in the following areas: - cooperation between police, customs and prosecuting authorities on the prevention of criminal acts, their detection and investigation, - cooperation and joint initiatives on basic and further training (Robert Schuman, SHERLOCK or ODYSSEUS programmes), - exchange of liaison officers and secondments, - use of items of equipment and forensic research, - joint evaluation of particular investigative techniques for detection of serious forms of organized crime and the establishment of a network for research and documentation on cross-border crime, - gradual approximation of criminal law and joint prosecution of cross-border criminal acts in the areas of organized crime, terrorism, trafficking in people, sexual abuse of children, trafficking in drugs, arms, radioactive material, works of art and valuable cultural items. Parliament called in particular for systematic cooperation between Europol and the competent police authorities in the applicant countries following the entry into force of the Europol Convention. It considered it essential for the provisions relating to the field of justice and home affairs to be revised at the time of the institutional reform which must be carried out before the first enlargement. It also considered that transitional periods (although limited) should be granted to applicant countries in the implementation of the acquis of the third pillar of the Union, in particular with regard to checks at external borders and freedom of movement. It also proposed the establishment of a European Academy for Internal Security to be responsible for training police forces and border control forces of European Union and applicant countries. It also called on the Commission, under the PHARE programme, to provide financial support for the modernization of customs infrastructure in the applicant countries. Lastly, Parliament called on the Council to submit a comprehensive report annually on this cooperation between the European Union and the ten applicant countries and these countries were also called on to make provision for a visa policy before accession to the Union.