Basic information

1997/2090(COS) COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic)	Procedure completed
Access to continuing training in the Union. Report **Subject** 4.40.01 European area for education, training and lifelong learning	

Key players

European Parliament	**Committee for opinion**	**Rapporteur for opinion**	**Appointed**
	FEMM Women's Rights	LARIVE Jessica E.S. (ELDR)	18/06/1997
Council of the European Union			

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
30/04/1997	Non-legislative basic document published	COM(1997)0180	Summary
16/05/1997	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
09/12/1997	Vote in committee		Summary
09/12/1997	Committee report tabled for plenary	A4-0405/1997	
14/01/1998	Debate in Parliament		
15/01/1998	End of procedure in Parliament		
02/02/1998	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	1997/2090(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	EMPL/4/08889

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A4-0405/1997 OJ C 014 19.01.1998, p. 0005	09/12/1997	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T4-0028/1998 OJ C 034 02.02.1998, p. 0121-0149	15/01/1998	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Non-legislative basic document	COM(1997)0180	30/04/1997	Summary

Other institutions and bodies

Institution/body	Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
EESC	Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report	CES1201/1997	30/10/1997	Summary
CofR	Committee of the Regions: opinion	CDR0424/1997 OJ C 315 13.10.1998, p. 0009	15/07/1998	

Access to continuing training in the Union. Report

1997/2090(COS) - 30/10/1997 - Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report

The Committee endorses the approach adopted in drawing up the final report. The incorporation of different and sometimes contradictory points of view, all of them however relevant to improving access to training, has enhanced the methodological approach underlying the report, giving a broad overview of the progress achieved in implementing the recommendation. The Committee supports the initiatives being taken to standardize the criteria used in drawing up the reports of the Member States and social partners. Harmonization in this area in no way implies interference in the prerogatives of the Member States. Using similar parameters, rather, makes it easier to assess the situation with regard to access in all the Member States. The Committee is surprised that the report makes no mention of CEDEFOP's (The European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training) contribution to vocational training. The Committee feels that the Commission should take account of this as an additional component of the efforts being made to promote access to continuing training. The Committee calls on the Commission and the Member States, in the interests of equity and solidarity, to concentrate their efforts on those with the most acute skills-related problems, i.e. the young unemployed, the long-term unemployed, the unemployed over-forties, the least skilled workers etc. Finally, the Committee would like to stress the role to be played by the various institutional participants.

Access to continuing training in the Union. Report

1997/2090(COS) - 30/04/1997 - Non-legislative basic document

OBJECTIVE: to formulate a number of priorities for promoting continuing training and access to skills in the years ahead in Europe. SUBSTANCE: the main purpose of the report is to draw conclusions from the implementation of the recommendation of June 1993 on access to continuing training and to formulate objectives with a view to continuing Community measures in this field. At the end of the report, in order to give some impetus to the debate among the Community bodies concerned, the Commission states three major objectives, to which it links three pointers for further action in the years ahead. At a later date, and in the light of responses to its action guidelines, it will make proposals for their implementation. -action guideline no 1: the Commission notes that real but inadequate progress has been made, given the technological, environmental and socio-economic changes taking place. Moreover, this progress is uneven in terms of social categories and types of worker gaining access to training. The Commission proposes pressing ahead with current developments while seeking to reduce inequalities. It suggests establishing at Community level common conditions for facilitating access, also at sectoral level. These would be established through consultations with the two sides of industry at Community level, which could also be extended to deal with problems of access to skills; -action guideline no 2: the Commission notes that the various parties involved in continuing training (enterprises, public authorities, the two sides of industry) are finding it difficult to formulate a real strategy in this field. It therefore proposes providing the various parties, public and private, with a permanent frame of reference which will keep them abreast of the continuing training

access situation, enabling them to size up the situation and define their goals better. To this end it proposes to perpetuate the process initiated by the follow-up to the recommendation, namely the drawing up of national reports on access to training. The aim is regularly to produce material which could be used as a basis for comparison and for formulating common criteria. The Commission would help to improve this reporting system by periodically conducting the continual vocational training study (CVTS) and Community survey programmes on qualitative aspects and the continuing-training needs of new sectors. The Observatory for Industrial Relations (Dublin Foundation) could also be asked to supplement the information available concerning the collective agreements of the Member States. The Commission suggests that these reports should be drawn up every three years in all Member States and that an aggregated Europe-wide report be published a year later. This would make it possible to 'benchmark' (carry out a comparative evaluation of) progress made in respect of access to continuing training, using an array of common indicators: participation rate, company policies, innovations, etc. The national and Community data would thus be made available to the parties concerned to help them determine new ways of promoting access as well as to utilize Community data thanks to a comparative evaluation scale for performance and sound national practices. -action guideline no 3: the Commission states that continuing training is witnessing numerous innovations, a trend which will be boosted by development of new training or skill-evaluation tools. Changes in work organization are also opening up novel forms of access to continuous training. However, the transfer of innovative practices is not fast enough. The Commission therefore proposes fostering the development of a European industry covering multimedia tools for use in continuing training and encouraging the development of innovative practices. It accordingly proposes: -to present in 1997 a plan for action on vocational training, 'Learning in the information society', -to extend the pilot projects for skill self-accreditation to occupational fields involving both technical and horizontal skills, -to give preference to transnational pilot projects centring on new access factors and to try out factors which could contribute to widening access, viz.: .projects linking development of access with adaptation/reduction of working hours, preferably involving industrial sectors, .projects linking new types of work organization with development of access, particularly through individualized training-and-work contracts, preferably involving innovative companies.

Access to continuing training in the Union. Report

1997/2090(COS) - 15/01/1998 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

In adopting the report by Mrs Susan A. WADDINGTON (PSE, UK) on access to continuing training, the European Parliament welcomed the communication from the Commission on this subject, which was the first systematic attempt to analyse and compare situations in Member States with regard to promoting workers' access to such training. However, Parliament noted that the national reports on which the communication was based did not contain enough quantitative and qualitative information about these measures. Accordingly, it called for the adoption at European Union level of common qualitative and quantitative indicators with a view to establishing a permanent monitoring and reporting system on access to training (a system in which EUROSTAT and CEDEFOP could play a role). It stressed the importance of monitoring trends in the labour market with a view to identifying shifting or changing requirements for skills in the labour force, and called for the next report to pay particular attention to the implications of continuing training policies for working women. Further research should be carried out in relation to the quantity and quality of training made available to the unemployed and to older workers. Concrete proposals should be brought forward with the objective of identifying and disseminating more widely good practices. Parliament called for the social partners to be involved more in measures relating to vocational training, which should be geared to ensuring equal treatment of men and women in the labour market. It stressed that vocational training must be made more accessible to women (particularly those working in SMEs) with the aim of providing them with the skills required to take full advantage of new technology. It considered that the Commission should step up its efforts towards greater coordination between continuing training and employment. It called for a more concerted approach between labour market-related programmes (e.g. the European Social Fund) and training-related programmes (Leonardo da Vinci). This imperative should be taken into account in the next review of the Structural Funds. It called on the Social Partners to reach an agreement on some of the issues of common concern identified in the resolution within a reasonable time period; otherwise, the Commission should bring forward proposals of its own based upon Article 127 of the Treaty on European Union.