Basic information

1997/2095(COS) COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic)	Procedure completed
Single market: Action plan **Subject** 2 Internal market, single market	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
ECON Economic and Monetary Affairs, Industrial Policy	VON WOGAU Karl (PPE)	18/06/1997

Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
ENER Research, Technological Development and Energy	PLOOIJ-VAN GORSEL Elly (ELDR)	27/05/1997
JURI Legal Affairs, Citizens' Rights	FLORIO Luigi Andrea (UPE)	21/05/1997
ENVI Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection	COLLINS Kenneth D. (PSE)	19/06/1997
LIBE Civil Liberties and Internal Affairs	MATIKAINEN-KALLSTRÖM Marjo (PPE)	19/06/1997

Council of the European Union

Council configuration	Meetings	Date
Competitiveness (Internal Market, Industry, Research and Space)	2051	1997-11-27
Competitiveness (Internal Market, Industry, Research and Space)	2079	1998-03-30

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
06/05/1997	Non-legislative basic document published	COM(1997)0184	
04/06/1997	Non-legislative basic document published	CSE(1997)0001	Summary
25/06/1997	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
04/11/1997	Vote in committee		Summary

04/11/1997	Committee report tabled for plenary	A4-0356/1997	
19/11/1997	Debate in Parliament		
20/11/1997	End of procedure in Parliament		
27/11/1997	Debate in Council		
08/12/1997	Final act published in Official Journal		
30/03/1998	Debate in Council		

Technical information

Procedure reference	1997/2095(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	ECON/4/08913

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A4-0356/1997 OJ C 371 08.12.1997, p. 0004	04/11/1997	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T4-0584/1997 OJ C 371 08.12.1997, p. 0171-0216	20/11/1997	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Non-legislative basic document	COM(1997)0184	06/05/1997	
Non-legislative basic document	CSE(1997)0001	04/06/1997	Summary

Other institutions and bodies

Institution/body	Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
EESC	Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report	CES0606/1997 OJ C 287 22.09.1997, p. 0089	29/05/1997	Summary
EESC	Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report	CES0454/1998 OJ C 157 25.05.1998, p. 0045	25/03/1998	
EESC	Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report	CES1128/1998 OJ C 407 28.12.1998, p. 0060	09/09/1998	

Single market: Action plan

1997/2095(COS) - 29/05/1997 - Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report

The Committee congratulates the Commission on presenting the broad lines of its Action Plan for the single market just a few months after the preliminary observations in its communication of October 1996 on the single market. The Committee endorses the strategic targets identified in the Action Plan. The four areas of intervention emerge clearly from the analyses summarized in last October's communication on the impact and effectiveness of the single market, and they also strongly echo the views expressed by interest groups during the hearing organized by the Committee on the subject last March. Turning to the measures envisaged to put the rules into effect, the Committee welcomes the emphasis placed by the Commission on the active role which national governments will play in completing the legal framework to ensure better application of the rules, more rapid problem-solving and a faster response to infringements. Of particular interest is the proposal to introduce an appraisal form for each Member State which will provide a regular update on the progress of implementation of the single market. This will represent an important step towards establishing transparency in relations between the European partners, helping to underscore the consensus that each has managed to achieve in this area.

Single market: Action plan

1997/2095(COS) - 20/11/1997 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

In adopting the report by Mr Karl von WOGAU (PPE, D), the European Parliament is lending its support to the Commission's action plan and hopes that it will lead to a genuine single market by the year 2002. It attaches particular importance to creating the preconditions for the realization of free movement of persons and the definitive abolition of passport controls between Member States. In the field of taxation, Parliament calls for: a reduction of the burden of taxation on labour; a plan for the phased introduction of the country of origin principle up to the year 2002; proposals designed to eliminate the inadequacies of the present VAT system; introduction of a lower rate of VAT for labour-intensive SMEs; approximation of excise rates; proposals for the elimination of double taxation of frontier workers; elimination of tax havens; common principles regarding taxation of capital. Parliament also considers that an efficiently functioning infrastructure is a fundamental requirement of the home market. In particular, it calls for the development of high-speed rail networks, liberalization of speech telephony services as planned, development of satellite communications, promotion of new renewable forms of energy, and development of the pipeline network. Parliament stresses the importance of standardization as an instrument of industrial policy and considers it necessary to improve present structures, in particular by amalgamating the three European standardization bodies. It also calls for the simplification and clarification of legislation and better protection of intellectual property. Dialogue with and information for the citizen must also be intensified. On the subject of company law, the legal framework must be developed, in particular by adopting the European Company Statute and other measures to facilitate the cross-border movement of companies. Special attention should be devoted to the way in which SMEs can participate in internal market. Finally, Parliament reaffirms its view that a single market requires a single European currency and an economic policy based on the principles of an ecological and social market economy.

Single market: Action plan

1997/2095(COS) - 04/06/1997 - Non-legislative basic document

OBJECTIVE: The Commission's draft action plan is aimed at improving the performance of the single market over the coming years. SUBSTANCE: The action plan follows the Commission's report on the impact and effectiveness of the single market (COS0502). It sets out a number of priorities offering a clear strategic overview of the actions to be undertaken by 1 January 1999. At the present stage, four strategic targets have been defined, all of equal importance and to be pursued in parallel. 1 - Making the rules more effective. Six actions are proposed. a) putting the agreed single market legislation into force: only 65% of the single market legislation is fully operational in all fifteen Member States. The Member States will be called on to submit their detailed timetable and demonstrate their political commitment to eliminating, by 1 January 1999 at the latest, any delay in transposition. Infringement procedures will be accelerated; b) establishing a framework for enforcement and problem-solving: the Commission will press each Member State to designate a coordination centre within its administration, to be responsible foe ensuring that any problems raised by other Member States or the Commission are dealt with by the authorities directly concerned, within strict deadlines. Telematic links between enforcement authorities will be developed under the second IDA programme; c) strengthening checks on products; the Commission will make legislative proposals to strengthen the common rules for market surveillance, by providing for joint inspection schemes or procedures in areas including industrial and consumer products, foodstuffs, pharmaceutical products and medical devices; d) better access for business to information: in coordination with the Euro Info Centres, the Commission will set up an Internet shop for information on all single market regulations affecting business; e) simplification of national and Community rules: the Commission will extend the programme of simplification and improvement of single market legislation (SLIM) to areas including VAT, banking, insurance and securities, fertilizers, consumer services, telecommunications, customs rules and procedures, and company law. Pilot schemes will be introduced to improve consultation procedures with business, including consultation of a European Business Test Panel on certain legislative proposals; f) tackling weaknesses in the existing legal framework: the existing single market legislation needs to improved in the following areas: public procurement, application of mutual recognition principle, European standardization, conformity marking of products, construction products, transit rules and the environment. 2 - Removing the main factors of market distortion. Four types of action are proposed: a) adopting proposals for the modernization and more consistent application of VAT; b) restructuring of the Community framework for the taxation of energy products; c) fiscal measures: a modified directive on the taxation of saving; a directive on crossborder payments of interest and royalties; a code of conduct to tackle the harmful effects of tax competition; d) guidelines on state aids to the regions and stricter rules on rescue and restructuring aid; simplification of anti-trust rules; 3. - Removal of the sectoral obstacles to market integration. This includes: a) breaking down the barriers in service markets: adoption of a new framework directive on UCITS; reduction of restrictions on pension fund placements; approval of the liberalization of gas supply; launch of the liberalization of telecommunications and electricity; agreement on crossborder rail services and rail freight freeways; new rules on charges and allocation of slots at airports; agreement on setting up a European air safety agency and a new Eurocontrol convention; b) offering

companies a favourable environment for crossborder operations: adoption of the proposal on the European company statute and proposals on the statutes of cooperatives, mutual societies and associations ; adoption of the proposal for a tenth directive on company law; adoption of the proposal for a directive on late payments; c) meeting the challenge of innovation and the new technologies: adoption of measures on electronic commerce (proposals on the creation of a mechanism for transparency, copyright protection, distance selling of financial services, digital signatures, etc); adoption of the directive on the protection of biotechnological inventions; 4. - Delivering a single market for the benefit of all citizens. This includes: a) eliminating border controls: adoption of flanking measures and of three directives on the elimination of frontier controls and of restrictions on the right of free movement and the right to travel. b) reform of the right to reside and remain in another Member State; c) protection of social rights: consultation of the social partners on the information and consultation of workers; d) promotion of labour mobility within the Union; adoption of the directive on supplementary pensions; improvement and greater use of the EURES labour market database; e) consumer rights and health protection: adoption of the directive on the sale of consumer goods and related guarantees; f) dialogue with the public: creation of a permanent mechanism for dialogue with the public and informing citizens of their rights.