Basic information

1997/2102(INI) INI - Own-initiative procedure	Procedure completed
Future of the European Social Fund (ESF) **Subject** 4.10.15 European Social Fund (ESF), Fund for European Aid to the Most Deprived (FEAD)	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
BUDG Budgets		
REGI Regional Policy	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
16/05/1997	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
07/10/1997	Vote in committee		Summary
07/10/1997	Committee report tabled for plenary	A4-0327/1997	
20/11/1997	Debate in Parliament		
21/11/1997	End of procedure in Parliament		
08/12/1997	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	1997/2102(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	EMPL/4/08941

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A4-0327/1997 OJ C 371 08.12.1997, p. 0002	07/10/1997	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T4-0587/1997 OJ C 371 08.12.1997, p. 0239-0251	21/11/1997	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Document attached to the procedure	SEC(1996)2150	27/11/1996	

Future of the European Social Fund (ESF)

1997/2102(INI) - 21/11/1997 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

In adopting the report by Mrs Karin JÖNS (PSE,D), the European Parliament advocates a drastic reduction in the objectives of the Structural Funds and the Community initiatives. In particular, it calls for Objectives 3 and 4 to be combined into a single horizontal objective and for the Community initiatives on human resources support to be reduced to a single initiative promoting equal opportunities for men and women. On the other hand, it calls for the retention of current measures under Objective 3 in favour of the young unemployed, long-term unemployed, women, disabled and socially excluded. Parliament presents a long list of measures to strengthen ESF intervention, including the promotion of local employment initiatives, support for the reorganisation of working time, development of vocational training, and promotion of the mainstreaming of the ESF initiatives. In all cases the social partners should be involved in negotiating the intervention framework between the Commission and the authorities responsible in the Member States. Regarding the reallocation of unused appropriations, Parliament calls on the Commission to make them available first of all to other regions of the same Member State, and then to other Member States, the criteria for selecting such regions and States being a high level of commitment appropriations and the quality of measures. In this case it regards it as desirable for the ESF assistance rate to be changed to 90% in the less-favoured regions where per capita GDP is less than 75% of the Community average, and to 70% in the rest of the Union. Parliament considers that national expenditure on social and employment policy must not fall victim to the efforts to achieve budget savings. It calls for co-financing (Community-Member States) to be maintained and for Member States to be able to decide for themselves how to obtain the necessary funds, including contributions from the regions or private sector.