Basic information

1997/2105(COS) COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic)	Procedure completed
Internal market SLIM: results of the 2nd phase and follow-up of the implementation of 1st phase. Report **Subject** 2 Internal market, single market	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
JURI Legal Affairs, Citizens' Rights	CROWLEY Brian (UPE)	18/06/1997

Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
AGRI Agriculture and Rural Development		
ECON Economic and Monetary Affairs, Industrial Policy	MURPHY Simon Francis (PSE)	03/07/1997
RELA External Economic Relations	VALDIVIELSO DE CUÉ Jaime (PPE)	22/07/1997

Council of the European Union

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

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
24/11/1997	Non-legislative basic document published	COM(1997)0618	Summary
27/11/1997	Debate in Council		
17/12/1997	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
21/01/1998	Vote in committee		Summary
21/01/1998	Committee report tabled for plenary	A4-0033/1998	

19/02/1998	Debate in Parliament		
20/02/1998	End of procedure in Parliament		
16/03/1998	Final act published in Official Journal		
30/03/1998	Debate in Council		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	1997/2105(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	JURI/4/08949

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A4-0033/1998 OJ C 080 16.03.1998, p. 0003	21/01/1998	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T4-0108/1998 OJ C 080 16.03.1998, p. 0284-0292	20/02/1998	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Supplementary non-legislative basic document	SEC(1997)0951	14/05/1997	Summary
Non-legislative basic document	COM(1997)0618	24/11/1997	Summary

Internal market SLIM: results of the 2nd phase and follow-up of the implementation of 1st phase. Report

1997/2105(COS) - 24/11/1997 - Non-legislative basic document

This communication summarizes the recommendations of the SLIM teams on the four sectors discussed in the second phase of the measure (VAT obligations, the Combined Nomenclature for External Trade, banking services and fertilizers) and the Commission's position on these recommendations. It informs the Council and the European Parliament of the progress made in implementing the recommendations of the SLIM teams during the previous phase. Concerning the implementation of the first phase, the Commission emphasizes that the problems which have arisen in the implementation of the Intrastat recommendations show that there is a contradiction between the political determination to simplify, repeatedly expressed by the Internal Market Ministers and the reluctance to adopt simpler data collection procedures and a simplified nomenclature for internal trade. The SLIM teams comprise five experts from national administrations and five representatives of users of the legislation. They started their work in June 1997 and submitted their reports at the end of October 1997.

Internal market SLIM: results of the 2nd phase and follow-up of the implementation of 1st phase. Report

1997/2105(COS) - 20/02/1998 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

In adopting the report by Mr Brian CROWLEY (UPE, Irl) the European Parliament urges the Commission to extend the scope of the SLIM method to all legislative areas in the Community, in particular the new legislation concerning agriculture. It believes that the Commission should endorse at an early date most of the recommendations made regarding the sectors examined in the second phase of the SLIM. Parliament proposes that the Commission select the following sectors for project's third phase: freedom of movement and social security for migrant workers, health and safety at work, public procurement and the directive on the marketing of dangerous substances. The fourth phase should include the machinery directive, the environmental waste management directive, the telecommunications equipment directive and the electromagnetic compatibility directive and the implementation of pollution controls. Parliament also advocates a simplification programme which covers the legislation of the individual Member States concerning governing the transposition of Community legislation into national law.

Internal market SLIM: results of the 2nd phase and follow-up of the implementation of 1st phase. Report

1997/2105(COS) - 14/05/1997 - Supplementary non-legislative basic document

The present working document summarizes the progress achieved in implementing the recommendations made during the first phase of the SLIM initiative (Simple Legislation for the Internal Market), launched by the Commission in May 1996. It also describes the areas selected for a second phase, explains the reasons behind the selection, sets out a timetable and describes some of the practical aspects of the SLIM teams' work. The progress in implementing the recommendations made during the first phase can be summarized as follows: 1) Intrastat: the recommendations of the Intrastat team included simplifying or no longer collecting certain data as from 1 January 1998, substantially reducing the number of subheadings in the nomenclature to be used from that date, and launching studies with a view to modifying the collection system or introducing a new one to reduce the burden on businesses. The Commission remains committed to the need for a simplified nomenclature. It has held discussions with an advisory group comprising Member State and industry representatives, with the aim of drafting a proposal by June 1997 which would take account of the needs of data users and providers. As far as simplification of data collection is concerned, the Commission is due to adopt two draft regulations amending Regulation No 3330/91/EEC soon. 2) Ornamental plants: the SLIM team is unanimous as regards the need to simplify and clarify the existing text. There should be differing forms and degrees of control at different stages of the production/distribution process, the rules applicable to the species covered should take account of their economic importance, the rules on varietal authenticity should be clarified, and the regime governing imports from third countries should be reviewed. The Commission will present a draft revised directive in May 1997, in which these aspects will be addressed and the text generally simplified . 3) Construction products: the option favoured by the Commission is to combine a short-term acceleration in the setting of standards with a long-term revision of the Directive, in order to bring it into line with the principles of the 'new approach'. The Commission has already initiated work to speed up the setting of standards. 4) Recognition of diplomas: the Commission will present proposals before the end of the year with a view to simplifying the updating of lists of diplomas which benefit from automatic recognition and streamlining the advisory committees. A hearing with interested parties will be held towards the end of the year. The Commission also intends to carry out an investigation into the administrative and legal formalities surrounding the recognition procedure under the sectoral directives; a similar exercise is already under way for the general system. Regarding the selection of areas, it has been agreed that Phase II of SLIM should cover the following sectors: value-added tax obligations, banking services, the combined nomenclature for external trade, and fertilizers. The teams will begin work in May 1997 and will deliver their reports by the end of October. The conclusions and recommendations contained in these reports will be the subject of a Commission Communication to the Internal Market Council in November.