Basic information

1997/2142(COS) COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic)	Procedure completed
Monitoring of the application of Community law. 14th annual report 1996 **Subject** 8.50.01 Implementation of EU law	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
JURI Legal Affairs, Citizens' Rights	THORS Astrid (ELDR)	01/07/1997

Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
ENVI Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection	COLLINS Kenneth D. (PSE)	08/10/1997
PETI Petitions	DIMITRAKOPOULOS Giorgos (PPE)	23/07/1997

Council of the European Union

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
29/05/1997	Non-legislative basic document published	COM(1997)0299	Summary
14/07/1997	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
06/01/1998	Vote in committee		Summary
06/01/1998	Committee report tabled for plenary	A4-0008/1998	
28/01/1998	Debate in Parliament		
29/01/1998	End of procedure in Parliament		
23/02/1998	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	1997/2142(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/4/09050

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A4-0008/1998 OJ C 056 23.02.1998, p. 0003	06/01/1998	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T4-0057/1998 OJ C 056 23.02.1998, p. 0014-0039	29/01/1998	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Non-legislative basic document	COM(1997)0299	29/05/1997	Summary
Document attached to the procedure	SEC(1997)1082	02/06/1997	Summary

Monitoring of the application of Community law. 14th annual report 1996

1997/2142(COS) - 29/01/1998 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

In adopting the report by Mrs Astrid THORS (ELDR, Fin), the European Parliament welcomed the European Ombudsman's initiative aimed at improving the procedural rights of individuals who complain to the Commission about breaches of Community law by Member States. It called on the Commission to impose more stringent deadlines on the Member States in order to shorten the relatively long period required for complaints or petitions to be dealt with. More precisely, it called on the Commission to develop further its catalogue of priorities in the processing of complaints and to bring actions under Article 169 taking into account, amongst others, the following criteria: the loss of own resources suffered by the Community; damage to human health or the environment; economic damage suffered by individuals or economic operators; the financial and economic advantages the Member State or businesses might gain as a result of non-transposition of Community law; the number of people affected by the infringement. As regards the system of penalties for Member States which fail to execute the judgments of the Court of Justice in infringement cases, Parliament called on the Commission to state more detailed reasons for the amount of the periodic penalty payment and to have those reasons published in the Official Journal when the action is lodged. Parliament asked for new sections to be added to the annual report to provide an overview of the activities of the Member States and the Commission with regard to such aspects as derogations from internal market rules (Article 100a(4) of the EC Treaty), suspect national 'technical regulations', the application of international agreements and national transposition of social policy directives by means of collective agreements. Parliament was concerned that the Community should inform its citizens better about their rights and Community law, and therefore called for a stepping-up of the institutions' joint measures in this field, with priority for swift and easily accessible electronic dissemination of Community law, especially via the Internet. Parliament called once again on the Member States to ensure that the study of Community law was made compulsory in university courses leading to qualifications which grant access to the legal profession.

Monitoring of the application of Community law. 14th annual report 1996

1997/2142(COS) - 29/05/1997 - Non-legislative basic document

OBJECTIVE: presentation of the Fourteenth Annual Report from the European Commission on monitoring the application of Community law (1996).
SUBSTANCE: the Commission believes that the summary of the application of Article 169 of the EC Treaty in 1996 is mainly positive, as shown by the statistical results as well as the initiatives taken by the Commission to improve the operation and effectiveness of the infringement procedure. The

Commission had adopted a series of measures to improve its working methods and make management of procedures quicker, simpler and more transparent. These measures have been supported by more specific measures regarding the internal market and the environment. Analysis of the results revealed four major trends: - the number of decisions to serve letters of formal notice or reasoned opinions on Member States had risen sharply: in 1996, the Commission delivered 1 587 formal letters of notice and referred 93 cases to the Court of Justice, which constitutes a record; - the number of complaints fell by 15%, and the number of cases detected by the Commission's own investigations fell by 13%; - the number of cases terminated remained high (1771 decisions in 1996, a decrease of 14% compared to 1995); - sustained activity regarding package meetings (particularly those involving the internal market and the environment) and missions on the transposition of directives: the meetings organized in the three new Member States had contributed to the considerable improvement in the rate of transposition of directives in those countries. As regards the transposition of directives, the Commission noted a slight improvement in the rate of national measures implementing the transposition of directives (92.8% compared with 90.7% in 1995), although the performance of individual Member States was variable. Apart from the improvements in these working methods, the Commission also adopted a communication on the implementation of the second subparagraph of Article 171(2) of the EC Treaty as well as a method for calculating the penalties provided for in this Article. This had allowed the Commission, in January 1997, to proceed with the first applications of this new provision introduced in the Maastricht Treaty. The Commission was finally anxious to ease the task of the European Ombudsman, following his initial inquiries into the Commission's management of infringement proceedings.

Monitoring of the application of Community law. 14th annual report 1996

1997/2142(COS) - 02/06/1997 - Document attached to the procedure