Basic information	
1997/2237(COS) COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic)	Procedure completed
Amsterdam draft treaty **Subject** 8.10 Revision of the Treaties, intergovernmental conferences	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
INST Institutional Affairs	TSATSOS Dimitris (PSE) MÉNDEZ DE VIGO Íñigo (PPE)	01/07/1997 01/07/1997

Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
AFET Foreign Affairs, Security and Defense Policy	SPENCER Tom (PPE)	24/06/1997
AGRI Agriculture and Rural Development	IZQUIERDO ROJO María (PSE)	08/07/1997
BUDG Budgets	DELL'ALBA Gianfranco (ARE)	09/10/1997
ECON Economic and Monetary Affairs, Industrial Policy	RANDZIO-PLATH Christa (PSE)	14/07/1997
ENER Research, Technological Development and Energy	AHERN Nuala (V)	02/07/1997
RELA External Economic Relations	KITTELMANN Peter (PPE)	30/06/1997
JURI Legal Affairs, Citizens' Rights	JANSSEN VAN RAAY James L. (UPE)	01/07/1997
REGI Regional Policy	VALLVÉ Joan (ELDR)	24/06/1997
TRAN Transport and Tourism	SIMPSON Brian (PSE)	23/09/1997

ENVI	Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection	ROTH-BEHRENDT Dagmar (PSE)	02/07/1997
DEVE	Development and Cooperation	DIMITRAKOPOULOS Giorgos (PPE)	23/07/1997
LIBE	Civil Liberties and Internal Affairs	ROTH Claudia (V)	28/01/1997
CONT	Budgetary Control	TOMLINSON The Lord John E. (PSE)	21/07/1997
PECH	Fisheries	LANGENHAGEN Brigitte (PPE)	24/06/1997
REGL	Rules of Procedure, Verification of Credentials and Immunities	CROWLEY Brian (UPE)	03/07/1997
FEMM	Women's Rights	TORRES MARQUES Helena (PSE)	18/06/1997
PETI	Petitions	BARROS MOURA José (PSE)	09/10/1997

Council of the European Union

Council configuration	Meetings	Date
General Affairs	2027	1997-09-15
General Affairs	2019	1997-06-26
General Affairs	2029	1997-10-06

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
15/09/1997	Debate in Council		
02/10/1997	Non-legislative basic document published	N4-0538/1997	
06/10/1997	Debate in Council		
24/10/1997	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
04/11/1997	Vote in committee		Summary
04/11/1997	Committee report tabled for plenary	A4-0347/1997	
19/11/1997	Debate in Parliament		
19/11/1997	End of procedure in Parliament		

08/12/1997	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	1997/2237(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	INST/4/09366

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A4-0347/1997 OJ C 371 08.12.1997, p. 0003	04/11/1997	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T4-0565/1997 OJ C 371 08.12.1997, p. 0051-0099	19/11/1997	Summary

Other institutions and bodies

Institution/body	Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
OS	Non-legislative basic document	N4-0538/1997	02/10/1997	

Amsterdam draft treaty

1997/2237(COS) - 19/11/1997 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

In adopting the report by Mr Inigo MENDEZ DE VIGO (PPE, E) and Dimitris TSATSOS (PSE, Gr), the European Parliament recommends Member States to ratify the Amsterdam Treaty. However, it regrets that the Treaty does not incorporate the institutional reforms needed for the effective and democratic functioning of an enlarged Union and affirms that these reforms must be completed before enlargement and as soon as possible so as not to delay accessions. Under these circumstances, it calls for the following steps to be taken before any enlargement: - adjustments to be made to the weighting of votes in the Council and to the number of Commission Members, with the Member States retaining equal status with each other; - qualified majority voting to become the general rule in the Council; - the unanimity requirement to be restricted to decisions of a constitutional nature (amendments to the Treaty, accessions, decisions on own resources, electoral procedure, application of Article 308 of the EC Treaty). Generally speaking, Parliament welcomes the fact that the Amsterdam Treaty gives precedence to the Community method. However, it believes that the opportunities afforded by the Treaty will lead to results only if a desire for common action in all areas of the Treaty is generated. It urges Member States to prevent a decision by a majority vote on the grounds of important national interests only in extreme cases. Parliament notes that the Amsterdam Treaty improves the Union's instruments for shaping policy in the interests of its citizens (employment, social issues, environment, health, internal security), but still calls for further improvements, in particular application of the Community method in the field of internal security, and improvement of the employment situation. Parliament calls for the prospect of developing a common defence policy to be strengthened, for the strategic planning and early warning unit to become operational without delay, and for Community competence to be extended to all questions examined in the context of the WTO. In the area of justice and home affairs, it advocates a common approach towards fighting organized and international crime and improving legal protection for Union citizens. On institutional matters, the European Parliament would like the following to be subject to its approval: - important international agreements, - any amendment of the basic Treaties, - the system of own resources. It calls for the codecision procedure to be extended to the following policy areas: agriculture and fisheries, tax and competition, structural policy, tourism, water resources, and legislative acts under the third pillar. It regrets the fact that, in important areas of European citizenship (free movement, right of establishment, mutual recognition of diplomas), the codecision procedure exists alongside unanimous voting within the Council. It advocates extending qualified majority voting to culture. It calls for the Union and the Communities to be merged into a single legal personality, for a specific list of

fundamental rights of the Union to be drawn up, and for the commitology procedures to be amended. It advocates urgent revision of the Euratom Treaty in order to remedy the democratic deficit. Regarding transparency and openness, it calls for: - measures which ensure that citizens have effective access to information; - documents which are comprehensible to citizens and which show who bears political responsibility; - codification and simplification of the constituent Treaties. Finally, Parliament requests the Commission to submit to it, before the European Council of December 1998, a report with proposals for a comprehensive reform of the Treaties and asks for the future Treaty to enter into force only with the assent of Parliament. It asks to be associated on an equal footing in any subsequent revision of the Treaties.