Basic information

1997/2243(COS) COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic)	Procedure completed
Amsterdam Treaty: increased cooperation **Subject** 8.40.10 Interinstitutional relations, subsidiarity, proportionality, comitology	

Key players

European Parliament	**Committee responsible**	**Rapporteur**	**Appointed**
	INST Institutional Affairs	FRISCHENSCHLAGER Friedhelm (ELDR)	19/01/1998
	Committee for opinion	**Rapporteur for opinion**	**Appointed**
	LIBE Civil Liberties and Internal Affairs	GOERENS Charles (ELDR)	05/02/1998
Council of the European Union			

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
02/10/1997	Non-legislative basic document published	AMSTERDAM	
05/11/1997	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
24/06/1998	Vote in committee		Summary
24/06/1998	Committee report tabled for plenary	A4-0257/1998	
15/07/1998	Debate in Parliament		
16/07/1998	End of procedure in Parliament		
21/09/1998	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	1997/2243(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/4/09415

Documentation gateway				
European Parliament				
Document type	**Committee**	**Reference**	**Date**	**Summary**
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A4-0257/1998 OJ C 292 21.09.1998, p. 0004	24/06/1998	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T4-0437/1998 OJ C 292 21.09.1998, p. 0105-0143	16/07/1998	Summary

Other institutions and bodies

Institution/body	Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
EU	Non-legislative basic document	AMSTERDAM	02/10/1997	Summary

Amsterdam Treaty: increased cooperation

1997/2243(COS) - 16/07/1998 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

Adopting the report by Mr Friedhelm Frischenschlager (ELDR, A) by 372 votes to 75 with 33 abstentions, Parliament wished this closer cooperation to be 'exceptional and temporary' for the sake of the coherence of EU policies. It stressed compliance with the conditions for recourse to the provisions on closer cooperation, in particular: respect for the acquis communautaire and the single institutional framework, use only as a last resort, respect for the rights and interests of non- participating Member States and neutrality with respect to conditions of competition between Member States. Parliament considered that closer cooperation might lend itself better to implementing action programmes in areas such as police and judicial cooperation, industrial policy, research, education, vocational training or the environment, than to enactment of legislation and warned against the option provided by the Amsterdam Treaty for Member States to oppose recourse to the provisions on closer cooperation for important reasons of national policy, considering that this could only be an exceptional option of last resort in cases of political emergency. The plenary rejected Paragraph 12 of the report calling on the Commission to propose deleting this quasi-veto in its report on a reform of all the Treaties. The process of engaging in any closer cooperation would have to be subject to democratic scrutiny by Parliament. In first pillar matters, the Commission must undertake to withdraw any proposal for closer cooperation where Parliament delivered a negative opinion. Where close cooperation took place, the principle of the unity of the budget must be adhered to. Parliament also considered that it would be unrealistic to expect that closer cooperation could provide a suitable institutional framework for meeting the main challenges that lay head for European integration (enlargement and deepening the economic aspects of EMU). Consequently, it called on the Commission to make a study of the potential applications of closer cooperation with a view to entry into force of the Amsterdam Treaty.

Amsterdam Treaty: increased cooperation

1997/2243(COS) - 02/10/1997

At its meeting on 3-4 September 1997, the Committee on Institutional Affairs finalized the list of subjects based on its current analysis which should, within the framework of the Amsterdam Treaty, facilitate the implementation of the Treaty once it is ratified. The new provisions of the Treaty in the field of closer cooperation have important implications for the powers of the European Parliament, making it possible to outline the provisions which could apply to the first and third pillars.