Basic information

1997/2244(COS) COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic)	Procedure completed
EC Treaty procedures under Article 189b, codecision: revision following the Amsterdam Treaty **Subject** 8.40.10 Interinstitutional relations, subsidiarity, proportionality, comitology	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
INST Institutional Affairs	MANZELLA Andrea (PSE)	30/09/1997

Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
ECON Economic and Monetary Affairs, Industrial Policy	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
ENER Research, Technological Development and Energy	VAN VELZEN W.G. (PPE)	17/03/1998
JURI Legal Affairs, Citizens' Rights	WIELAND Rainer (PPE)	25/02/1998
ENVI Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection	COLLINS Kenneth D. (PSE)	22/04/1998
LIBE Civil Liberties and Internal Affairs	NASSAUER Hartmut (PPE)	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		
02/07/1998	Vote in committee		Summary
02/07/1998	Committee report tabled for plenary	A4-0271/1998	
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	1997/2244(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/4/09416

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A4-0271/1998 OJ C 292 21.09.1998, p. 0004	02/07/1998	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T4-0436/1998 OJ C 292 21.09.1998, p. 0105-0140	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

EC Treaty procedures under Article 189b, codecision: revision following the Amsterdam Treaty

1997/2244(COS) - 02/10/1997

At its meeting of 3 and 4 September 1997, the Committee on Institutional Affairs, on the basis of its latest deliberations, drew up a list of subjects to facilitate the implementation of the Treaty of Amsterdam after its ratification. With regard to the procedure under Article 189b, the revision of the 1993 Interinstitutional Agreement should be carried out in the light of major amendments put forward in Amsterdam.

EC Treaty procedures under Article 189b, codecision: revision following the Amsterdam Treaty

1997/2244(COS) - 16/07/1998 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

In adopting the report by Mr Andrea MANZELLA (PSE, I) Parliament proposed a certain number of measures for the new codecision procedure after Amsterdam. These measures relate to the first reading, the second reading and the conciliation phase. Parliament also proposed certain accompanying measures and called for revision of the 1993 interinstitutional agreements with regard to Article 189b of the EC Treaty (codecision). 1) First reading: the Treaty of Amsterdam contained a potential major change in the functioning of the codecision procedure. It provided that it could be concluded at the first reading stage if the Council approved a Commission proposal which had not been modified by Parliament or if the Council accepted all the amendments tabled by Parliament. In order to implement these new arrangements in an effective manner Parliament proposed the

establishment of a structured dialogue between Parliament, the Council and the Commission. This dialogue would involve: - authorising the rapporteur and chairman of the relevant Parliament committee to hold informal discussion with the Council in the active presence of the Commission (informal trialogue) with the obligation to report back to the relevant committee; - inviting a Council representative to attend the Parliament meeting when the file is to be dealt with; - stepping up the exchange of documents between the institutions and ensuring the joint verification of the legal quality of texts from the early stages of the legislative process; - setting up an interinstitutional databank. With regard to the improvement of procedures, they relate in particular to the legal quality of Parliament's texts, the requirement that all legislative amendments should have a written justification, the organisation of votes and the tabling of amendments. 2) Second reading and conciliation: the abolition of the phase involving Parliament's intended rejection of the common position and abolition of the third reading by the Council in the case of failure of conciliation are the most significant amendments made by the Treaty of Amsterdam with regard to the final co-decision stages. To improve Parliament/Council relations during these later stages of the procedure Parliament proposed the following provisions: - direct presentation by the Council to Parliament of its common position, to allow it to justify its refusal to accept amendments by Parliament at first reading; - agreement between the institutions on interpretation of the new Amsterdam deadlines so that premature conciliation meetings can be avoided; - better forward planning in scheduling conciliations to take account of the extension of co-decision to a large number of new areas. With regard to Parliament's internal procedures, it called for verification of the requisite majority for all Parliament votes in second reading and the new obligation on Parliament's conciliation delegation to report back to plenary in cases of failed conciliation. 3) For the accompanying measures, Parliament called for the annual legislative programme to become a more complete document for the work of the committees and the plenary in the interests of better interinstitutional legislative planning. It also hoped for intensified contacts with the national parliaments. Lastly, Parliament called for the revised interinstitutional agreement to cover: - the interpretation and application of the new deadlines for conciliation; - the publication of any declarations attached to texts; - procedures for the signing of agreed texts; - the use of forms of written procedure; - the legislative quality of texts; - procedures in the event of failure of conciliation; - additional provisions on the role of the Commission.