Basic information

1997/2270(COS) COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic)	Procedure completed
Europol Drugs Unit: annual report 1996 **Subject** 7.30.30.04 Action to combat drugs and drug-trafficking	

Key players

European Parliament	**Committee responsible**	**Rapporteur**	**Appointed**
	LIBE Civil Liberties and Internal Affairs	SCHULZ Martin (PSE)	28/10/1997
Council of the European Union			

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
12/01/1998	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
01/09/1998	Vote in committee		Summary
01/09/1998	Committee report tabled for plenary	A4-0305/1998	
16/09/1998	End of procedure in Parliament		
12/10/1998	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	1997/2270(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	LIBE/4/09512

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
		A4-0305/1998		

Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		OJ C 313 12.10.1998, p. 0008	01/09/1998	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T4-0469/1998 OJ C 313 12.10.1998, p. 0048-0062	16/09/1998	Summary

Europol Drugs Unit: annual report 1996

1997/2270(COS) - Non-legislative basic document

OBJECTIVE: presentation of the third annual report 1996 of the Europol Drugs Unit (EDU). SUBSTANCE: The Europol Drugs Unit was established by ministerial agreement of the TREVI Group in Copenhagen in June 1993 and became operational on 3 January 1994. The organisation's main aims are to exchange information on illicit drugs traffic, to analyse the drugs phenomenon in the Community and reach a better understanding of existing legislation in this area. The EDU is also seen as a forerunner of the future European Police Office (Europol). Since 1995 the mandate of the EDU has been extended to cover exchanges of information concerning illicit trafficking in radioactive and nuclear substances, clandestine immigration, organised crime, illicit vehicle trafficking, traffic in human beings and money laundering. In 1996 it undertook several activities to assist Member States to step up their measures against drugs trafficking. Apart from a significant increase in exchanges of information in the EDU's areas of competence, the unit played a significant role in developing and harmonising joint investigative strategies and techniques. The EDU thus appears to be increasingly used as a joint laboratory by the Member States to manage and analyse the best methods of investigation and research, particularly since the introduction of Europol liaison officers, with whom the EDU is in almost constant contact. The EDU also provides a common platform for exchanging opinions and experiences between the Member States' police and customs services. The EDU, based at The Hague, in the Netherlands, also encourages cooperation between the police forces of the 15 Member States by helping them to obtain information and develop inquiries covering several countries. In this respect the EDU was very active in 1996 in strengthening its technological and computer infrastructure to ensure rapid and reliable information at all times. With regard to EDU internal organisation, the report notes that staff have increased from 90 in 1995 to 116 in 1996. Its budget was approximately ECU 5 m in 1996, with an additional ECU 1.4 m to implement the Europol computer system (in 1997 the budget was ECU 5.6 m + 2.2 for the Europol computer system). The report includes a detailed description of the EDU's structure and staffing.

Europol Drugs Unit: annual report 1996

1997/2270(COS) - 16/09/1998 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

Adopting the report by Mr Martin SCHULZ (PSE, D) on the annual report of the Europol Drugs Unit for 1996 in accordance with Article 52 of the EP Rules of Procedure, the European Parliament considered that the report does not in itself amount to a document that can be put to the European Parliament for democratic scrutiny or even provide it with proper information. It reiterated its previous requests relating to parliamentary scrutiny and the powers to be granted to the Court of Justice to issue preliminary rulings and urged the Council to draft forthwith a protocol to the Europol Convention taking account of these requests. It believes that the protocol on the privileges and immunities for Europol employees makes legal monitoring of the Europol extremely difficult. It also called on the Council to adopt the necessary measures enabling Europol to begin exercising its powers with regard to the fight against terrorism from 1 January 1999. It called on the Member States to suspend the plans to extend Europol's mandate, and to give priority to tasks such as exchanges of information and expertise, support for investigations and training in the areas of: - illicit drug trafficking; - clandestine immigration; - illicit vehicle trafficking; - money laundering; - the fight against terrorism. It invited the Member States and the bodies of Europol to prepare the forthcoming entry into force of the Europol Convention and called for adequate training measures to be conducted in the Member States and for improved knowledge of the EDU and its objectives. It also called for new instruments and equipment matching the level to which crime has developed to be made available to the police forces in the Member States. Finally, it called upon Member States to abandon their attitudes of resistance to the transfer to Europol of operational tasks of police coordination.