Basic information

1997/2271(COS) COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic)	Procedure completed
Free movement of workers: action plan **Subject** 2.30 Free movement of workers	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
JURI Legal Affairs, Citizens' Rights	ODDY Christine Margaret (PSE)	22/01/1998
LIBE Civil Liberties and Internal Affairs	D'ANCONA Hedy (PSE)	22/04/1998
PETI Petitions	ULLMANN Wolfgang (V)	13/11/1997

Council of the European Union

Council configuration	Meetings	Date
Social Affairs	2060	1997-12-15

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
12/11/1997	Non-legislative basic document published	COM(1997)0586	Summary
15/12/1997	Debate in Council		
15/12/1997	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
30/06/1998	Vote in committee		Summary
30/06/1998	Committee report tabled for plenary	A4-0269/1998	
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	1997/2271(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	EMPL/4/09513

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A4-0269/1998 OJ C 292 21.09.1998, p. 0004	30/06/1998	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T4-0438/1998 OJ C 292 21.09.1998, p. 0106-0145	16/07/1998	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Non-legislative basic document	COM(1997)0586	12/11/1997	Summary

Other institutions and bodies

Institution/body	Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
EESC	Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report	CES0806/1998 OJ C 235 27.07.1998, p. 0082	28/05/1998	

Free movement of workers: action plan

1997/2271(COS) - 12/11/1997 - Non-legislative basic document

OBJECTIVE: presentation of an action plan for the reinforcement of free movement of workers in the Union. SUBSTANCE: Bearing in mind the main conclusions of the report drawn up by the High Level Panel on free movement of persons in the Union (COS0544) and in particular the fact that the free movement of workers is still hampered by a range of practical obstacles, the communication gives a series of practical responses with a view to improving this fundamental right enshrined in Article 48 of the Treaty of Rome. The measures proposed are based around five main principles: 1) improvement and adaptation of the existing rules: the current provisions date from 1968 and the many proposals for modifications have not always been adopted by the Council. The Commission intends to present new proposals updating the existing provisions with regard to: - right of residence, in order to extend it to jobseekers and certain types of workers (short term contracts), - equal treatment between workers of a Member State and national workers with regard to social and tax advantages, - equal treatment for members of the worker's family so that they have the same social rights as nationals, - frontier workers, so that they have the same social and tax rights as national workers, - coordination of social security, so as to extend to legally resident third country nationals the system currently applicable to Community nationals, - supplementary pensions, in order to supplement the current system which does not cover statutory pensions (CNS97265). Provision is made for other modifications relating to family reunion and education and training; 2) improvement of the transparency of the labour market: by the year 2000 better cooperation must be established between the Public Employment Services (PES) in order to provide jobseekers, wherever their place of residence, with information on job vacancies and training courses and to be aware of the situation in other Member States (placing of PES job vacancies on the Internet, information services for frontier workers); 3) development of cooperation: measures will be taken to improve cooperation between the authorities responsible for the free movement of workers and to facilitate the resolution of conflicts. Specific contact points will be created for migrant workers to help them solve urgent problems. Lastly, the social partners will be encouraged to draw up practical measures to implement the right to free movement; 4) improvement of the visibility of the right to free movement: this right must be made more widely known among the actors in the labour market through specific measures such as seminars,

publication of a newsletter concerning free movement, etc.; 5) development of innovative projects under the European Social Fund: measures must be developed to facilitate the mobility of labour. A call for projects will be launched in 1998, under Article 6 of the ESF regulation.

Free movement of workers: action plan

1997/2271(COS) - 16/07/1998 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

In adopting the report by Mrs Barbara WEILER (PSE, D) on the action plan for free movement of workers Parliament called for an end to discrimination in respect of the free movement of persons, the right of establishment and the right to family reunification as between citizens of the Union and citizens of third countries permanently established in the territory of the Union. It called on the Commission to produce consolidated texts of the existing legislation in this field and to incorporate these texts into a general code of movement and residence. It also called for the Commission to submit a supplementary action programme for achieving and completing the free movement of persons for which Article 7a of the Treaty provides. Parliament also proposed the following measures: - establishing equal treatment, with regard to application of the EC Treaty, between stateless persons and refugees resident in the territory of a Member State and citizens of that Member State; - incorporating the Schengen agreement into Community law as soon as possible after the ratification of the Amsterdam Treaty; - abolishing the visa requirements applicable to third country nationals moving within the Union provided that they are members of the families of migrant workers; - extending the right of residence to all family members regardless of their nationality and to family members not living in the migrant worker's household and unmarried partners in Member States which recognise this form of cohabitation for their own citizens; - improving the right of residence of job-seekers, workers on temporary and flexible contracts, self- employed persons and pensioners who regularly reside in another Member State; - simplifying the administrative procedures relating to the issue of residence permits; - developing a social insurance card that is machine-readable and valid throughout Europe; - examination of the cross-border effects of national social security and tax legislation; - introduction of a European training passport and encouragement of cross-border mobility in the framework of education and training programmes; - strengthening of coordination and cooperation between national authorities. Parliament also called on the Commission to investigate the shortcomings of the Member States with regard to the transposition and application of Community law and to name and shame those which do not fulfil their obligations. It suggested in particular the publication of a 'free movement scoreboard' and called for recalcitrant Member States to be taken systematically to the Court of Justice. Lastly, noting that a considerable number of obstacles to free movement were due to the absence of transparency and to poor coordination, it advocated the promotion of a climate of trust among the Member States' national authorities through training and exchange of civil servants, the establishment of national coordination centres and the encouragement of cooperation among Commissioners responsible for aspects of free movement of workers.