Basic information

1997/2289(COS) COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic)	Procedure completed
Small and medium-sized enterprises SMEs, craft sector: coordination of actions. 1997 report **Subject** 3.45.02 Small and medium-sized enterprises (SME), craft industries	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
ECON Economic and Monetary Affairs, Industrial Policy	THYSSEN Marianne (PPE)	16/12/1997

Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
ENER Research, Technological Development and Energy	ADAM Gordon J. (PSE)	17/03/1998
REGI Regional Policy	CELLAI Marco (NI)	05/02/1998
ENVI Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	

Council of the European Union

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
25/11/1997	Non-legislative basic document published	COM(1997)0610	Summary
29/01/1998	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
13/10/1998	Vote in committee		Summary
13/10/1998	Committee report tabled for plenary	A4-0359/1998	
04/11/1998	Debate in Parliament		
05/11/1998	End of procedure in Parliament		
23/11/1998	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	1997/2289(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	ECON/4/09549

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Motion for a resolution		B4-0106/1998	13/01/1998	
Motion for a resolution		B4-0430/1998	31/03/1998	
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A4-0359/1998 OJ C 341 09.11.1998, p. 0002	13/10/1998	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T4-0645/1998 OJ C 359 23.11.1998, p. 0015-0098	05/11/1998	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Non-legislative basic document	COM(1997)0610	25/11/1997	Summary

Small and medium-sized enterprises SMEs, craft sector: coordination of actions. 1997 report

1997/2289(COS) - 05/11/1998 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

In adopting the report by Mrs Marianne THYSSEN (PPE, B) on coordination of activities to assist small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and the craft sector, the European Parliament approved the idea of systematically consulting representative SME organisations when legislative proposals relating to industry were being drafted. Parliament urged that aid to SMEs should continue to be a priority during the programming period 2000-2006 and expected the Commission, in its proposals for this programming period, to use the definition from its own recommendation of 03.04.1996 (which made a precise distinction between medium-sized, small and micro-enterprises) and to formulate quantitative and verifiable objectives for the participation of SMEs in these programmes. With regard to consultation of SMEs, Parliament called for the study of the degree of representativeness of the European social partners currently involved in the social dialogue, which had been announced in September 1996, to be carried out. It was important for specific representative SME organisations to be involved in the European social dialogue at every stage. Parliament called on the Austrian Presidency of the Council to work to ensure this. Parliament welcomed all measures to create a better climate for enterprise and a better apparatus of government, and expressed the hope that binding measures would be adopted, along the lines of the Directive on time limits for payment of debts. Parliament called for the SME dimension to be incorporated in all training programmes.

Small and medium-sized enterprises SMEs, craft sector: coordination of actions. 1997 report

1997/2289(COS) - 25/11/1997 - Non-legislative basic document

OBJECTIVE: presentation of 1997 report on the coordination of Community activities to assist SMEs and the craft sector under the third multiannual programme for SMEs of 1996. SUBSTANCE: the report provides an overview of the Community's activities to assist SMEs seeking to raise the profile of the Union's action and help make it more coherent and efficient. The report is structured on two priorities: improving the SME environment and increasing access to Community support measures. (1) improving the SME environment: to improve the administrative, legal, fiscal and financial environment for SMEs, the Commission is keen to take greater account of the specific features of SMEs in drawing up all Community policies relating to the internal market, competition, taxation, social policy and the environment. The coordination of measures to assist SMEs is achieved through the SME impact-assessment sheet for legislative proposals and measures to simplify legislation relating to the internal market. Following the Treaty of Amsterdam, the Commission set up a 'BEST' Task Force to simplify the business environment for SMEs. Other initiatives have been taken, such as work on payment periods and the transfer of businesses, improvement of the financial environment of SMEs, the change-over to the euro and employment (guidelines on employment drawn up at the Luxembourg Summit); (2) access to SME programmes and support measures: the measures taken by the Commission are aimed primarily at access to finance and credit support for the development of SMEs in disadvantaged regions and the Europeanization and internationalization of SMEs and measures to strengthen their competitiveness and improve access to research, innovation and training, promoting the spirit of enterprise and greater awareness of the environmental dimension. Concerning information, the measures taken involve mainly the Euro Info centres; Europeanization and internationalization is achieved through inter-enterprise cooperation networks (BC-NET and BRE) and the EUROPARTENARIAT and INTERPRISE programmes. Measures concerning the crafts sector included the organization of the Third European Conference on the Craft Industry in Milan. Finally, in order to promote the creation of joint ventures within the European Union, the Commission has adopted the new programme entitled 'JEV' and supports environment measures (Euromanagement-Environment). Other programmes concern the Structural Funds (ESF-ADAPT), programmes of research and development (fourth RDT framework programme), vocational training (Leonardo), international cooperation (PHARE-TACIS, MEDA, AL- and ASIA-INVEST). Finally, the Commission supports measures in the fields of quality and standardization, innovation, the environment (ECO-AUDIT), transport, energy and the audio-visual industry. SME participation in European Social Fund and other programmes has increased. However, the Commission considers that there is room for further improvement and it intends to encourage cooperation between Member States by organizing the exchange and transfer of good practice in improving and simplifying the business environment. Moreover, a structured dialogue between the Commission and the professional organizations concerned ensures that adequate account is taken of the situation of SMEs and that political actions are implemented within the institutions.