Basic information

1998/0913(COS) COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic)	Procedure completed
Combating organized crime: guidelines, prevention, comprehensive strategy. Report on action programme, Cardiff 1998 **Subject** 7.30.30 Action to combat crime	

Key players

European Parliament	**Committee responsible**	**Rapporteur**	**Appointed**
	LIBE Civil Liberties and Internal Affairs	CEDERSCHIÖLD Charlotte (PPE)	02/09/1998
Council of the European Union			

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
29/06/1998	Non-legislative basic document published	09986/1998	Summary
14/09/1998	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
26/10/1998	Vote in committee		Summary
26/10/1998	Committee report tabled for plenary	A4-0376/1998	
16/11/1998	Debate in Parliament		
17/11/1998	End of procedure in Parliament		
07/12/1998	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	1998/0913(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/4/10390

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A4-0376/1998 OJ C 359 23.11.1998, p. 0004	26/10/1998	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T4-0653/1998 OJ C 379 07.12.1998, p. 0018-0044	17/11/1998	Summary

Council of the EU

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Document attached to the procedure	07303/4/1998	02/06/1998	Summary
Non-legislative basic document	09986/1998	29/06/1998	Summary

Combating organized crime: guidelines, prevention, comprehensive strategy. Report on action programme, Cardiff 1998

1998/0913(COS) - 29/06/1998 - Non-legislative basic document

OBJECTIVE: to propose a draft Council resolution on prevention of organised crime. SUBSTANCE: The draft resolution aims to complement and reinforce the action plan to combat organised crime adopted in 1997 (COS0548). Its objective is to establish an overall strategy for combating crime by proposing guidelines for prevention of organised crime applicable to all Member States and measures arising from these guidelines to be implemented by the Commission and the Member States. (1) The guidelines propose: - developing national programmes to combat organised crime, in line with changing circumstances; - increasing knowledge and experience in this area through research programmes, closer cooperation between Member States and the Commission, common definitions, standards and methods of prevention, exchanges of information with applicant countries and international organisations working in this area, compiling a code of good practice on prevention, etc.; - increasing cooperation with the Member States' decentralised authorities in implementing prevention plans (relevant social groups, the commercial sector and local administrative bodies); the Member States are also recommended to look into the development of certain preventive techniques (video surveillance of public places etc.) and monitor procedures for the award of public contracts; action should also be taken with regard to drugs, petty crime and crime prevention within political parties; - increased information to the widest possible public on the dangers of organised crime (through media projects). (2) With regard to measures, the draft resolution draws the attention of all the authorities concerned (including local authorities and regions) to coordinated implementation of prevention activities. The Commission is invited to draft a report by the end of 2000 on existing Community instruments for crime prevention and to make proposals on the most effective prevention measures. This report should also indicate how the measures could be adopted at Community level in the light of the Treaty of Amsterdam. The Member States are called upon to set up bodies at local level to discuss and study relevant proposals and exchange information on their respective preventive programmes. Contact points should be set up to facilitate exchanges of information. The Member States are called upon to report to the Council by the end of 2000 on the measures taken. The Council could then decide on further measures on the prevention of organised crime.

Combating organized crime: guidelines, prevention, comprehensive strategy. Report on action programme, Cardiff 1998

1998/0913(COS) - 17/11/1998 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

In adopting the report by Mrs Charlotte CEDERSCHIÖLD (EPP, S) on combating organised crime Parliament regretted that the draft Council resolution did not contain sufficiently concrete measures and called on the Council to take steps to remedy that from the list it had put forward and to set deadlines for each action to be implemented. It called firstly for objective and sustained participation by the media in raising awareness of the dangers of organised crime. It also hoped that the applicant countries and (at least) neighbouring third countries would participate in this preventive strategy against organised crime. It also stressed the importance of civil society in preventing crime. The practical measures proposed by Parliament included: - the adoption of specific provisions in the fields of labour, health, education, training and culture; - the development of innovative and people-friendly town planning, which includes the elimination of slums and ghettos, the development of architecture inimical to crime, the replacement of the present concentration of large numbers of refugees in unorganised urban settlements by organised camps with proper sanitary facilities, security and provisions etc; - the strengthening of the social fabric and encouragement for the creation of various support groups; - strengthening a sense of community and self-esteem or social values; - the establishment at local level of crime prevention boards; - the integration of marginalised groups; - encouragement for community policing; - measures to combat factors which lead to the development of begging, particularly by children; - support for measures and projects to educate citizens to be law-abiding; - elimination of networks involved in trafficking in women and illegal prostitution; -

encouragement for citizens to make statements to the police and the judicial authorities (protection of witnesses); - care for families at risk from delinquency; - strengthening of efforts to resocialise offenders and repeat offenders; - the establishment of programmes to help and treat victims. Lastly, Parliament called on the Council and the Member States to give priority to crime prevention projects within the context of the reform of the Structural Funds and other regional assistance programmes.

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1998/0913(COS) - 02/06/1998 - Document attached to the procedure

In a document intended for the Cardiff European Council (June 1998), the Council presents a progress report on implementation of the recommendations formulated in the action programme on organized crime (COS0548). Among the notable advances featured in the report are in particular: - the creation of the multidisciplinary group on organized crime, - conclusion of the pre-accession pact on organized crime with the applicant countries and Cyprus, - conclusion of a political agreement on joint action to criminalise participation in a criminal organization by anyone living in a Member State, wherever the organization is based or is active in the EU; - signature of the convention on customs cooperation and corruption and substantial progress on the draft convention on mutual judicial assistance in criminal matters; - establishment of a European judicial network to improve practical cooperation and an agreement on joint action on best practices in mutual judicial assistance in criminal cases; - establishment of a mutual evaluation system to assess the reasons for delays in providing mutual judicial assistance and urgent requests for confiscation of assets; - improvement in the system for collecting and analysing data on organized crime; - adoption of the Falcone programme for action to combat organized crime. The report notes substantial progress in ratification of the Europol Convention (14 out of 15 Member States) and on its practical implementation. The report also stresses the efforts of the Multidisciplinary Working Party to improve operational cooperation at strategic level. The Working Party has in particular adopted a practical approach to action against crime based on a multi-service approach. It has also made contacts with some key countries and organizations outside the EU (USA, Canada and Council of Europe) and made some moves towards Russia.