Basic information

1998/2068(COS) COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic)	Procedure completed
Action against racism: action plan **Subject** 7.30.08 Action to combat racism and xenophobia	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
LIBE Civil Liberties and Internal Affairs	OOSTLANDER Arie M. (PPE)	30/06/1998

Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
AFET Foreign Affairs, Security and Defense Policy	TERRÓN I CUSÍ Anna (PSE)	03/06/1998

Council of the European Union

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
25/03/1998	Non-legislative basic document published	COM(1998)0183	Summary
11/05/1998	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
01/12/1998	Vote in committee		Summary
01/12/1998	Committee report tabled for plenary	A4-0478/1998	
17/12/1998	Debate in Parliament		
18/12/1998	End of procedure in Parliament		
09/04/1999	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	1998/2068(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/4/09951

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A4-0478/1998 OJ C 098 09.04.1999, p. 0006	01/12/1998	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T4-0771/1998 OJ C 098 09.04.1999, p. 0482-0491	18/12/1998	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Non-legislative basic document	COM(1998)0183	25/03/1998	Summary

Other institutions and bodies

Institution/body	Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
EESC	Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report	CES1145/1998 OJ C 407 28.12.1998, p. 0183	09/09/1998	
CofR	Committee of the Regions: opinion	CDR0369/1998 OJ C 198 14.07.1999, p. 0048	10/03/1999	

Action against racism: action plan

1998/2068(COS) - 25/03/1998 - Non-legislative basic document

OBJECTIVE: establishing a coherent framework for measures to combat racism at European level. SUBSTANCE: in the Commission's view, racism continues to present a major challenge for our societies. This is borne out by the continuing high levels of racist incidents and discrimination (33% of those interviewed in the latest Eurobarometer opinion poll described themselves as 'quite racist'). In view of this, the possibility for achieving further progress in this area provided by the Treaty of Amsterdam which includes a general non-discrimination clause the Commission decided to propose an action plan with a genuinely European dimension for combatting racism. This builds upon the very positive achievements of the European Year Against Racism (CNS95355) and the partnership arrangements set up by this initiative (creation of networks seeking to make the public more aware of the dangers of racism etc.). With this action plan, the Commission proposes practical and procedural measures to prepare the ground for future and more ambitious action to combat racism within the framework of the new treaty provisions on non-discrimination. The action plan seeks to draw together all concerned: citizens national or local authorities, non- governmental organizations, social partners, media and sports bodies. The action plan consists of four strands: (1) Paving the way for legislative initiatives: with the inclusion of a general non-discrimination clause in the text of the Treaty of Amsterdam (Article 13) providing new scope for action by the Commission. Pending the ratification of the treaty, the action plan sets out a number of measures to promote non-discrimination in the Union (for example by means of a major conference on the question at the end of 1998). When the treaty is ratified the Commission will be able to submit a legislative proposal seeking to combat racial discrimination (before the end of 1999); (2) Mainstreaming the fight against racism within Community policies and programmes: developing the potential offered by certain sectors of activity in the Community in particular in the areas of employment, the European structural funds, education, training and youth programmes, public procurement policy, research, external relations, information actions and cultural and sports events. An interservice group will be established within the Commission to push this process forward and the Commission will continue to take full account of the principles of non-discrimination in its own recruitment and promotion policies; (3) Developing and exchanging new models, launching a range of private projects to combat racism and promote an exchange of experience at European level. (4) Strengthening information and communication actions: the Commission is seeking to build upon the work initiated during the European Year Against Racism and give this action a clear and recognisable identity (logo, media actions and Internet site, publications and

prizes). In addition, initiatives could also be launched in cooperation with various media partners to promote codes of good practice for journalists, editors and advertising bodies.

Action against racism: action plan

1998/2068(COS) - 18/12/1998 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The Parliament in adopting its report by Mr. Arie OOSTLANDER (EPP, NL) on the Commission's 'Action Plan against Racism', regretted the fact that the Plan contains few specific proposals with coirresponding objectives, time-scales or funding. The reports calls on the Commission : - to support, in particular, projects of groups suffering discrimination who are fighting racism, to increase their resilience and to counteract the causes of negative stereotyping; - to continue providing assistance in the future - with a low threshold - to small local NGOs, which often organise dynamic and innovative initiatives aimed at promoting a multicultural, tolerant society and combating racism and xenophobia; - to pay close attention to the way in which voluntary sector networks interact; - to submit a report on the management of the budget line on combating racism, with particular attention to : the priorities in granting subsidies, the decision-making process and the criteria for subsidies, in particular a review of the ceiling of 25 000 ECU and the opening up of funding possibilities to applicant countries; - to evaluate all existing Community legislation and programmes as a means of developing a mainstreaming approach to combating racism and discrimination; - to submit to the Council and the Parliament a communication on the policy it is pursuing to ensure reasonable representation of racial and ethnic minority groups in its own staff; - to use the starting Line Group proposals as a contribution to its discussions on new legislation to combat racism and to promote equal rights; - to take account, in proposals for legislation, of the fundamental differences in the reasons for discrimination, as well as the specific nature of the discrimination in different areas of life; - to proceed at the earliest opportunity with a proposal for a Directive against racial discrimination under Article 13 of the Amsterdam Treaty (and calls on the Council, in the meantime, to include an article prohibiting discrimination in all new pieces of legislation in the employment and social field); - to draw up a Code of Conduct, in conjunction with the social partners, on measures to combat race discrimination at the workplace, with a view to establishing policies and practices for improving the integration of ethnic minorities and migrants into the labour market; - to submit, in co-operation with the Committee of the Regions, to the European Parliament and the Council a proposal for a code of conduct relating to non-discrimination in the housing market. The Parliament, furthermore, urges the Council, the Commission and the Member States to give special priority in all EU external activities to combating ethnic hatred and racism. It also calls on the Council to draw up a common position to ensure a co-ordinated and coherent EU strategy at the World Conference on Racism to be organised by the UN in 2000. The Parliament also reminds the Commission, in the context of accession negotiations, that it takes particular note of the treatment of minorities in applicant countries. Lastly, it calls on the Council and the Commission to point outto third countries that their former subjects have the right to live freely in the society to which they have migrated and to become completely integrated, without suffering any interference from the government of their countries of origin.