Basic information

1998/2128(COS) COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic)	Procedure completed
Research, development RTD, innovation: reinforcing economic cohesion and industrial competitiveness **Subject** 3.40.14 Industrial competitiveness 3.50.01 European research area and policy	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
REGI Regional Policy	DE LASSUS SAINT GENIÈS Henri (ARE)	25/11/1997

Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
ENER Research, Technological Development and Energy	IZQUIERDO COLLADO Juan de Dios (PSE)	23/09/1998

Council of the European Union

Council configuration	Meetings	Date
Industry	2043	1997-11-13

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
13/11/1997	Debate in Council		
27/05/1998	Non-legislative basic document published	COM(1998)0275	Summary
14/09/1998	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
21/01/1999	Vote in committee		Summary
21/01/1999	Committee report tabled for plenary	A4-0027/1999	
24/02/1999	Debate in Parliament		
25/02/1999	End of procedure in Parliament		
01/06/1999	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	1998/2128(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	REGI/4/10208

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A4-0027/1999 OJ C 150 28.05.1999, p. 0004	21/01/1999	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T4-0140/1999 OJ C 153 01.06.1999, p. 0015-0048	25/02/1999	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Non-legislative basic document	COM(1998)0275	27/05/1998	Summary

Other institutions and bodies

Institution/body	Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
EESC	Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report	CES1440/1998 OJ C 040 15.02.1999, p. 0012	02/12/1998	
CofR	Committee of the Regions: opinion	CDR0278/1998 OJ C 198 14.07.1999, p. 0041	10/03/1999	

Research, development RTD, innovation: reinforcing economic cohesion and industrial competitiveness

1998/2128(COS) - 27/05/1998 - Non-legislative basic document

PURPOSE : Commission Communication to the Council, European Parliament, Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions entitled 'Reinforcing Cohesion and Competitiveness through Research, Technological Development and Innovation'. CONTENT : Economic and social cohesion is enshrined in the Maastricht Treaty together with EMU and the completion of the Single Market. It is further underlined by the Amsterdam summit Resolution on Growth and Employment and by the November 1997 Jobs Summit, held in Luxembourg, which adds the requirement that priority should be given to the fight against unemployment. The Commission's Agenda 2000 document confirms that Structural Funds should continue to encourage competitive development and sustainable job-creating growth in the less-favoured regions. In order to foster diversification, restore economic dynamism and promote an active business culture, specific support measures should be out in place. These should include support for infrastructure, technological, financial and organisational innovation, SMEs and human resources, include equality of opportunity. Agenda 2000 also requires that account be taken of the prospects of the candidate countries. It recognises that knowledge policies - research, innovation, education and training - should play an important part in bridging the gap between scientific and technological excellence, on the one hand, and industrial and commercial successes on the other. Stimulating innovation in SMEs is regarded as particularly important. The common objective is to reinforce the

competitive capacity of less favoured regions by ensuring that RTD and innovation policies are integrated within the productive fabric of the region. In order to do so, it is necessary to increase the awareness of national and regional authorities and economic players to : - strengthen the capacity of regions to integrate RTD and innovation into their economic development - improve the learning processes by which firms can become more innovative - assist firms and institutions to respond to the difficulties they face in adapting to new forms of work organisation - better co-ordinate sectoral policies at national level in supporting regional development efforts. The Communication also seeks to demonstrate that the complementary use of Community instruments - the Structural Funds and the Framework Programme for RTD - can contribute to cohesion and competitiveness. Moreover, candidate countries (Cyprus and Central and Eastern European countries) too can benefit from experience of EU support for RTD and Innovation in less favoured regions.

Research, development RTD, innovation: reinforcing economic cohesion and industrial competitiveness

1998/2128(COS) - 25/02/1999 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The Parliament adopted the resolution drafted by Mr. de Lassus Saint Geniès (ERA, F) supporting increasing competitiveness through more investments in R&D. The resolution emphasises the importance of EU R&D policy helping the regions. It calls on the Commission, when allocating certain types of funding to innovation under the RTD framework programme, to observe award criteria weighted towards the less favoured regions. It also calls for the following : - the training and mobility of scientists and technologists between less and more prosperous regions to be improved; - the Commission and the Member States to establish procedures for stimulating the supply of risk capital to SMEs in the less favoured regions referred to in the Treaty of Amsterdam in support of technological development; - the Commission to propose relevant procedures to evaluate the feasibility thresholds above which the spirit of innovation and competitiveness can be developed and to use evaluation criteria defined in agreement with the scientific and economic community and submitted to Parliament and the Council for a decision; - the Commission to assess periodically and systematically - at the very least at the end of each framework programme and prior to the proposal for a new framework programme - progress achieved regarding the actual participation of groups from less favoured regions in the framework programme and regarding the benefits derived by socio-economic agents in these regions from the actions and the results of the framework programme; - the Commission to draw up precise indicators of the state of RTD and innovation applicable to the regions in order to improve the monitoring and assessment of the impact of structural interventions in this area.