Basic information

1998/2153(COS) COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic)	Procedure completed
Social dialogue at European level **Subject** 4.15 Employment policy, action to combat unemployment	

Key players

European Parliament	**Committee for opinion**	**Rapporteur for opinion**	**Appointed**
	BUDG Budgets		
	ECON Economic and Monetary Affairs, Industrial Policy		
	INST Institutional Affairs		

Council of the European Union	**Council configuration**	**Meetings**	**Date**
	Social Affairs	2015	1997-06-27
	Social Affairs	2164	1999-03-09

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
27/06/1997	Debate in Council		
20/05/1998	Non-legislative basic document published	COM(1998)0322	Summary
14/09/1998	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
27/10/1998	Vote in committee		Summary
27/10/1998	Committee report tabled for plenary	A4-0392/1998	
17/11/1998	Debate in Parliament		
18/11/1998	End of procedure in Parliament		
07/12/1998	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	1998/2153(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/4/10289

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A4-0392/1998 OJ C 379 07.12.1998, p. 0004	27/10/1998	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T4-0667/1998 OJ C 379 07.12.1998, p. 0060-0092	18/11/1998	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Non-legislative basic document	COM(1998)0322	20/05/1998	Summary

Other institutions and bodies

Institution/body	Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
CofR	Committee of the Regions: opinion	CDR0343/1998 OJ C 093 06.04.1999, p. 0054	14/01/1999	

Social dialogue at European level

1998/2153(COS) - 20/05/1998 - Non-legislative basic document

OBJECTIVE: to propose a new European social dialogue in order to increase its adaptability and link the work of the social partners more closely to the development and implementation of EU policies. SUBSTANCE: Following the consultation document of 1996, which was intended to gather as wide a range of views as possible from the parties concerned on the means to be employed to promote and develop the European social dialogue (COS0468 - COM(98) 259), the Commission gave some thought to the future of the European social dialogue. Drawing conclusions from the consultation exercise and from recent developments in this field, it now introduces new actions and initiatives to be carried out to adapt and promote the social dialogue. To this end, the Commission has adopted three main objectives: - a more open social dialogue; - more effective dialogue between the European institutions and social partners; - the development of real collective bargaining at European level. In order to attain the objectives, the Commission proposes to act in four main directions: 1) information: the Commission will set in place more efficient channels for the exchange of information with all the social partners, and it will encourage the European social partners to follow up the outcome of the European social dialogue; 2) consultation: the Commission will replace the existing structures at sectoral level by new more flexible social dialogue bodies. At cross-industry level, the advisory committees will be rationalised and the Commission will ensure that all social partners are effectively consulted on on-going policy developments; 3) employment partnership: the Commission will propose to reform the Standing Committee on Employment in order to strengthen the exchange between the Commission, the Council and the social partners, on the basis of the Council Resolution on the 1998 Employment Guidelines; 4) negotiation: the Commission will continue to encourage the further development of contractual relations both at cross-industry and sectoral levels. On the latter point, the Commission adds that after the entry into force of the Amsterdam Treaty legislative proposals on social policy will be addressed to all Member States and will undergo the two-stage consultation procedure provided for by the Treaty. The Commission may suspend the legislative procedure if the social partners indicate that they wish to enter into negotiations on the subject concerned. This means that the social partners will have greater

opportunities - and responsibilities - to participate in the development of European social policy. The Commission also states that with the new employment strategy the social partners have a leading role to play in the necessary modernisation of the labour market. Initiatives will therefore be called for to enhance cross-industry dialogue (particularly with SMEs) and sectoral dialogue.

Social dialogue at European level

1998/2153(COS) - 18/11/1998 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

In adopting the report by Mr Helwin PETER (PSE, D) on social dialogue Parliament considered it vital to lay down, on the basis of clear criteria, provisions governing access for representatives of the two sides of industry to the social dialogue and their functions in it. There was a need to flesh out the role of the European social partners in the light of the attainment of economic and monetary union and its impact on wages policy and macroeconomic policy and on the organisation and financing of social security. Parliament called on the Commission to submit a reflection document on this subject. Parliament called for interinstitutional negotiations on its role in the legislative procedure following the incorporation of the Agreement on Social Policy in the Amsterdam Treaty. Parliament should be granted equal status with that of the Council with regard to social legislation the initiative for which came from the two sides of industry. Parliament expressed doubts as to the usefulness of the advisory committees set up to assist the two sides of industry during the negotiations under the Agreement on Social Policy. However, the upgrading of sectoral dialogue by means of new committees was considered positive. Parliament considered that it was necessary to distinguish between information and consultation within the various bodies and advisory committees, with the participation of the Commission, the Council or the national governments, and the actual collective agreements between autonomous partners. It supported the reform of the Standing Committee on Employment and called for it to examine both the employment guidelines and the economic policy guidelines. Parliament considered that the reduction in the number of representatives of the two side of industry in the new committee to twelve members per organisation made it essential that the Commission should give particular support to the representatives of workers' organisations. It wanted to see greater transparency of the planning and use of the appropriations for the social dialogue. It also called for the Commission to draft a White Paper on the impact of the euro on wage trends and other working conditions in the Community. Lastly Parliament reiterated its call for an agreement laying down the legal and institutional framework for the decision-making procedures of both sides of industry at Community level. It considered that these deliberations should begin without delay and be completed before the end of this parliamentary term.