Basic information

1998/2206(COS) COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic)	Procedure completed
Structural Funds. 9th annual report 1997 **Subject** 4.70.01 Structural funds, investment funds in general, programmes	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
REGI Regional Policy	PEIJS Karla M.H. (PPE)	26/11/1998

Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
AGRI Agriculture and Rural Development	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
BUDG Budgets	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
CONT Budgetary Control	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
PECH Fisheries	MEDINA ORTEGA Manuel (PSE)	17/02/1999
FEMM Women's Rights		

Council of the European Union

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
30/10/1998	Non-legislative basic document published	COM(1998)0562	Summary
28/01/1999	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
21/04/1999	Vote in committee		
21/04/1999	Committee report tabled for plenary	A4-0235/1999	

04/05/1999	End of procedure in Parliament		
01/10/1999	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	1998/2206(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/4/10531

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A4-0235/1999 OJ C 279 01.10.1999, p. 0007	21/04/1999	

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Non-legislative basic document	COM(1998)0562	30/10/1998	Summary

Other institutions and bodies

Institution/body	Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
CofR	Committee of the Regions: opinion	CDR0220/1999 OJ C 226 08.08.2000, p. 0068	13/04/2000	

Structural Funds. 9th annual report 1997

1998/2206(COS) - 04/05/1999 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament adopted the resolution by Karla Peijs (PPE,NL) on the Ninth Annual Report on the Structural Funds for 1997. The report declares that the Parliament is satisfied with the increased uptake of appropriations from the Structural Funds in 1997, while at the same time noting the enormous differences in implementation between the Member States and the regions. The Parliament is concerned at the backlog in implementing the Community initiatives and calls on the Member States in future to strictly observe the time limits proposed by the Commission for the approval of projects and for the transfer of funds for Community initiatives in order to speed up the use of appropriations and permit proper implementation of transnational projects. The report calls on the Commission and the Member States to make the administrative procedures governing implementation for the next Community initiative period (2000-2006) simpler and more transparent and, with the aim of ensuring European added value, to enhance the criterion of transnationality in the implementation of such initiatives. It calls for greater efforts to be made when drawing up programmes to ensure equal treatment and opportunities for men and women. Like the Commission, the Parliament is keen to ensure compatibility between the Structural funds and other Community policies. It considers that the priniple of additionality should remain a priority during the next programming period and welcomes the fact that the Commission is reinforcing and widening the principle of partnership in the reform of the Structural Funds. Finally, the Parliament requests that the greater emphasis placed on SMEs should be accompanied by an allocation of more structural aid to the SMEs during the 2000-2006 programming period.

Structural Funds. 9th annual report 1997

1998/2206(COS) - 30/10/1998 - Non-legislative basic document

PURPOSE : presentation of the 9th Annual Report of the Structural Funds (1997). CONTENT : Work during 1997 in the field of economic and social cohesion and the Structural Funds may be summed up under four main headings: 1) the full implementation of programming : virtually all the programmes are now under way, the exceptions being the Spanish programmes for Objective 2 (1997-99) and the Italian programmes for Objective 1, which should be adopted early in 1998. The last 13 Community Initiative programmes under the 1994 initial allocation were adopted. By the end of the year, assistance from the funds was being implemented through 1026 programmes (580 for the Objectives and 446 for the Community Initiatives). 2) intense financial activity : one of the main features of the year was retrieving the backlog in implementing appropriations at the beginning of the period. overall, the implementation of programmes now appears to be satisfactory. Implementation of CSFs and SPDs speeded up considerably during the year : by the end of the year, 62% of total assistance for the period had been committed and 46% paid. In 1997 alone, about 99% of appropriations under Objective 1, which accounts for 68% of the total available to the Funds in this period, was fully in line with initial forecasts. it should be noted that the Member States where rates of implementation were highestr were generally the least prosperous, and also the main beneficiaries, principally under Objective 1 : Spain, Portugal and Ireland. The position with regard to the Community Initiatives is quite different. By the end of 1997, 56% of the total assistance available for the 13 Community Initiatives in 1994-99 had been committed and only 31% paid. In 1997 alone, only 61% of available appropriations had been committed and 90% paid. To speed up the implementation of the Community Initiatives, the Commission discussed with the Member States how they could redistribute their financial resources, either between measures in the same programme or between the programmes under a single Initiative. These negotiations should be concluded in 1998 and could result in the reallocation of resources among Initiatives. 3) Further consideration of the priorities for finance : in 1997, the Commission sought to give a fresh boost to some of its measures and priorities. The absolute priority of maintaining and promoting employment was the yardstick for designing the new Objective 2 programmes for 1997-99. At the same time, implementation on the spot of the 89 territorial employment pacts will extend Community action for job creation at local level. Alongside these horizontal priorities, attention was paid to the development of certain thematic priorities : assistance from the Funds for the information society, the future of urban development, rural development, the interaction between regional policy and competition policy, and the links between the competitiveness of the European economy and RTD and innovation. 4) Lastly, this report focuses on ways in which assistance from the Structural Funds helps SMEs. In the period 1994-99, between 15% and 20% of the total resources of the Funds will be specifically earmarked for measures to stimulate small firms and improve their productive facilities and economic environment. The total amount involved is between 23 and 30 billion ECU. Finance from the Structural Funds for SMEs is provided througha wide variety of measures including aid for capital investment (venture capital or start-up capital, leasing, etc.), part-financing business start-up areas, training, measures to promote RTD. It can be seen that Structural Funds are gradually developing a priority for small firms which is reflected in the greater financial resources provided by the most recent programming documents.