Basic information

1999/2017(COS) COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic)	Procedure completed
Trade, follow up to the Green paper COM(1996)0350. White Paper **Subject** 3.45.05 Business policy, e-commerce, after-sales service, commercial distribution 4.60 Consumers' protection in general	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
ECON Economic and Monetary Affairs, Industrial Policy	GAROSCI Riccardo (PPE)	08/02/1999

Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
REGI Regional Policy	RYYNÄNEN Mirja (ELDR)	23/02/1999
ENVI Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	

Council of the European Union

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
27/01/1999	Non-legislative basic document published	COM(1999)0006	Summary
12/02/1999	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
21/04/1999	Vote in committee		
21/04/1999	Committee report tabled for plenary	A4-0241/1999	
04/05/1999	End of procedure in Parliament		
01/10/1999	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	1999/2017(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	ECON/4/10744

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A4-0241/1999 OJ C 279 01.10.1999, p. 0008	21/04/1999	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T4-0367/1999 OJ C 279 01.10.1999, p. 0023-0074	04/05/1999	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Non-legislative basic document	COM(1999)0006	27/01/1999	Summary

Other institutions and bodies

Institution/body	Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
EESC	Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report	CES0706/1999 OJ C 258 10.09.1999, p. 0026	08/07/1999	

Trade, follow up to the Green paper COM(1996)0350. White Paper

1999/2017(COS) - 04/05/1999 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

Without debate, the European Parliament adopted the resolution by Riccardo Garosci (PPE,IT) on the Commission White Paper on commerce. The report supports the general approach taken by the Commission in its overview of the sector set out in the White Paper. It stresses the important social role that small-scale and local commerce plays in rural and periphral areas, its contribution to direct and indirect job creationand to economic and social cohesion, in both rural and urban areas. The Parliament considers that the necessary measures should be taken to prevent retailers from closing down and, to that end, to restore the balance between large-scale and traditional commerce. The report stresses in particular the role of direct selling both as a solution to the problems of retraining middle-aged people and as a new opportunity for young people and women, and calls on the Commission to carry out a special study in this area. The Commission is also called upon to promote electronic commerce, particularly in peripheral regions and to investigate how small businesses and shops could be supported in making the move to electronic shopping (eg. by training) and to spread the knowledge of good functional models. The Parliament calls on the Commission to consider the possibility of a proposal to regulate the growth of large-scale outlets and also calls for the more widespread use of electronic payment systems by commercial distribution organisations in order to restrict the amount of cash held by shops and supermarkets. To this end, it wishes to see a reduction in the fiscal burden on individual electronic payment transactions and a reduction in the application costs for payment cards. The report draws attention to the role that the commerce sector will play in the distribution of the eurowith special programmes and financing for the change over of accounting systems and the setting-up of technical working groups involving traders, producers, industry and cash register and computer system suppliers. The Parliament considers that it should be made easier for SMEs in the commercial sector to participate in Structural Fund programmes. It also considers that the competitive position of small shops should be guaranteed by meeting their specific needs, for example, by reducing inheritance tax so as to facilitate the transfer of businesses.

Trade, follow up to the Green paper COM(1996)0350. White Paper

1999/2017(COS) - 27/01/1999 - Non-legislative basic document

PURPOSE : This White Paper presents the follow-up that the Commission intends to undertake with respect to the Green Paper on Commerce, which it adopted on 20/11/1996. The aim of the Green Paper was to provide food for thought and to launch a consultation procedure on the importance of this sector to the economy, on the challenges facing it and on possible ways of remaining competitive, thus maintaining its major contribution to employment and social cohesion. CONTENT : The aim of the White Paper is not to launch a major initiative nor to introduce radical changes of policy. The commerce and distribution sector needs a strategy essentially based on improving competitive conditions in the market in which competitiveness is the best response to consumer demand. The White Paper therefore sets out specific problems and practices calling for action at Community level in order to ensure the smooth running of the market and thereby guarantee that the sector can best contribute to consumer welfare. The Paper proposes a number of actions designed to create a coherent strategy for promoting the sector in the coming years; these actions fall into four priority groups : 1- improving the use of policy instruments to assist commerce (better understanding of the sector, changes in the structure of commerce : new challenges for policy); 2- improving the administrative, legislative and financial environment (simplification of administrative procedures, access to finance, improving the dialogue between commercial enterprises and their partners - social dialogue, consumers, credit institutions); 3- strengthening competitiveness and promoting entrepreneurship (electronic commerce, co-operation between businesses, training, commerce in rural and less-favoured urban areas, commerce and tourism, commerce and environment); 4- encouraging Europeanisation and internationalisation (the Euro, international trade, enlargement of the EU).