

Basic information	
1999/2064(COS) COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic)	Procedure completed
Charter of fundamental rights of the European Union <b>Subject</b> 1.10 Fundamental rights in the EU, Charter	

Key players				
European Parliament	<b>Committee responsible</b>		<b>Rapporteur</b>	<b>Appointed</b>
	<b>AFCO</b> Constitutional Affairs		DUFF Andrew (ELDR) VOGGENHUBER Johannes (V/ALE)	22/09/1999 22/09/1999
	<b>Committee for opinion</b>		<b>Rapporteur for opinion</b>	<b>Appointed</b>
	<b>AFET</b> Foreign Affairs, Human Rights, Common Security, Defense		LALUMIÈRE Catherine (PSE)	23/09/1999
	<b>LIBE</b> Citizens' Freedoms and Rights, Justice and Home Affairs (Associated committee)		PACIOTTI Elena Ornella (PSE)	29/07/1999
	<b>JURI</b> Legal Affairs and Internal Market		CEDERSCHIÖLD Charlotte (PPE-DE)	30/11/1999
	<b>EMPL</b> Employment and Social Affairs		VAN DEN BURG Ieke (PSE)	14/10/1999
	<b>FEMM</b> Women's Rights and Equal Opportunities		SWIEBEL Joke (PSE)	21/09/1999
	<b>PETI</b> Petitions		FOURTOU Janelly (PPE-DE)	24/11/1999
	Council of the European Union	<b>Council configuration</b>		<b>Meetings</b>
General Affairs		2206	1999-10-11	
General Affairs		2201	1999-09-13	
General Affairs		2243	2000-02-14	
Justice and Home Affairs (JHA)		2251	2000-03-27	

Key events			
Date	Event	Reference	Summary
04/06/1999	Non-legislative basic document published	<a href="#">N5-0058/1999</a>	<a href="#">Summary</a>
23/07/1999	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
13/09/1999	Debate in Council		
11/10/1999	Debate in Council		
14/02/2000	Debate in Council		
29/02/2000	Vote in committee		<a href="#">Summary</a>
29/02/2000	Committee report tabled for plenary	<a href="#">A5-0064/2000</a>	
14/03/2000	Debate in Parliament		
16/03/2000	Decision by Parliament	<a href="#">T5-0107/2000</a>	<a href="#">Summary</a>
16/03/2000	End of procedure in Parliament		
27/03/2000	Debate in Council		
29/12/2000	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	1999/2064(COS)
Procedure type	COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic)
Procedure subtype	Commission strategy paper
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 148 Rules of Procedure EP 57_o
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	AFCO/4/11039

Documentation gateway				
<b>European Parliament</b>				
Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		<a href="#">A5-0064/2000</a> <a href="#">OJ C 377 29.12.2000, p. 0005</a>	29/02/2000	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		<a href="#">T5-0107/2000</a> <a href="#">OJ C 377 29.12.2000, p. 0170-0329</a>	16/03/2000	<a href="#">Summary</a>
<b>Council of the EU</b>				
Document type	Reference	Date	Summary	
Non-legislative basic document	<a href="#">N5-0058/1999</a>	04/06/1999	<a href="#">Summary</a>	

# Charter of fundamental rights of the European Union

1999/2064(COS) - 16/03/2000 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament approved its resolution drafted by Mr. Andrew DUFF (ELDR, UK) and Mr. Johannes Voggenhuber (GUE/EFA, Ö) on an EU Charter of Fundamental Rights. The Parliament welcomes the drafting of the Charter, which will contribute to defining a collective patrimony of values and principles and a shared system of fundamental rights which bind citizens together and underpin the Union's internal policies and its policies involving third countries. It also welcomes the progress made in this connection since the Tampere European Council, in particular the establishment of the joint Convention composed of representatives of the Heads of State and Government, the European Parliament, the parliaments of the Member States and the Commission. It notes that the establishment of a binding European list of fundamental rights will confer a more secure legal and moral basis on the process of European integration, will give more concrete form to the common basis that exists at the level of the constitutional state and will provide more transparency and clarity for citizens. It points out that its final assent to a Charter depends to a large extent upon whether the Charter:

- has fully binding legal status by being incorporated into the Treaty on European Union;
- subjects any amendment to the Charter to the same procedure as its original drafting including the formal right of assent for the European Parliament;
- contains a clause requiring the consent of the European Parliament whenever fundamental rights are to be restricted in any circumstances whatsoever;
- contains a clause stipulating that none of its provisions may be interpreted in a restrictive manner with regard to the protection guaranteed by Article 6 (2) of the Treaty on European Union;
- includes such fundamental rights as the right of association in trade unions and the right to strike;
- recognises that fundamental rights are indivisible by making the Charter applicable to all the EU's institutions and bodies and all its policies, including those contained in the second and third pillars in the context of the powers and functions conferred upon it by the Treaties;
- is binding upon the Member States when applying or transposing provisions of Community law;
- is innovative in nature by also giving legal protection to the peoples of the European Union in respect of new threats to fundamental rights, for example from the fields of information technology and biotechnologies, and confirms, as an integral part of fundamental rights, and especially women's rights, the general non-discrimination clause and environmental protection. The EP will strongly support initiatives for a broad societal discussion in the Member States, involving social partners, NGOs and other representatives of civil society. It emphasises that the Charter should not replace or weaken Member States' provisions concerning fundamental rights and it supports the agreement reached by the Convention that the Charter should be drafted on the presumption that it will have full legal force. The Parliament calls upon the IGC to: a) put the incorporation into the Treaty of the Charter on its agenda and to give it at that conference the position which it deserves in view of its paramount importance for an ever-closer union among the peoples of Europe; b) enable the Union to become a party to the ECHR so as to establish close cooperation with the Council of Europe, whilst ensuring that appropriate action is taken to avoid possible conflicts or overlapping between the Court of Justice of the European Communities and the European Court of Human Rights; c) add a reference to the European Social Charter and to the appropriate ILO and UN conventions to the reference to the European Convention on Human Rights in Article 6 of the Treaty on European Union; d) give all persons protected under the Charter access to the Court of Justice of the European Communities by supplementing existing mechanisms for judicial review.

# Charter of fundamental rights of the European Union

1999/2064(COS) - 04/06/1999 - Non-legislative basic document

**PURPOSE:** presentation of a European Council document concerning the drawing up of a Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union.

**CONTENT:** This document seeks to lay down the main lines which should be covered by a Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union. The Charter should contain the fundamental rights and freedoms, as well as basic procedural rights guaranteed by the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms and derived from the constitutional traditions common to the Member States, as general principles of Community law. The Charter should also include the fundamental rights that pertain only to the Union's citizens. In drawing up such a Charter, account should furthermore be taken of economic and social rights as contained in the European Social Charter and the Community Charter of the Fundamental Social Rights of Workers (Article 136 TEC) insofar as they do not merely establish objectives for action by the Union. In the view of the European Council, a draft of such a Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union should be elaborated by a body composed of representatives of the Heads of State and Government and of the President of the Commission, as well as of members of the European Parliament and national parliaments. Representatives of the European Court of Justice should participate as observers. Economic and Social Committee, the Committee of the Regions and social groups, as well as experts should be invited to give their views. Secretariat services should be provided by the General Secretariat of the Council. A draft document should be ready before the European Council in December 2000. The European Council will propose to the European Parliament and the Commission that, together with the Council, they should solemnly proclaim on the basis of the draft document a European Charter of Fundamental Rights. It will then have to be considered whether and, if so, how the Charter should be integrated into the Treaties.