Basic information

1999/2125(COS) COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic)	Procedure completed
Combating organized crime: trafficking in women, further actions following the COM(1996)0567 **Subject** 4.10.09 Women condition and rights 7.30.30.02 Action to combat violence, trafficking in human beings and migrant smuggling	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
FEMM Women's Rights and Equal Opportunities	SÖRENSEN Patsy (V /ALE)	02/09/1999

Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
LIBE Citizens' Freedoms and Rights, Justice and Home Affairs	ROURE Martine (PSE)	25/10/1999
DEVE Development and Cooperation		

Council of the European Union

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
09/12/1998	Non-legislative basic document published	COM(1998)0726	Summary
13/09/1999	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
18/04/2000	Vote in committee		Summary
18/04/2000	Committee report tabled for plenary	A5-0127/2000	
18/05/2000	Debate in Parliament		
19/05/2000	Decision by Parliament	T5-0247/2000	Summary
19/05/2000	End of procedure in Parliament		
23/02/2001	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	1999/2125(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	FEMM/4/10634

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A5-0127/2000 OJ C 059 23.02.2001, p. 0005	18/04/2000	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T5-0247/2000 OJ C 059 23.02.2001, p. 0293-0307	19/05/2000	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Non-legislative basic document	COM(1998)0726	09/12/1998	Summary

Combating organized crime: trafficking in women, further actions following the COM(1996)0567

1999/2125(COS) - 09/12/1998 - Non-legislative basic document

PURPOSE : to further actions in the fight against trafficking in women. CONTENT : Since the Commission's first Communication at the end of 1996 on trafficking in women for the purpose of sexual exploitation, public concern about this matter and, in the same period, international co-operation have risen conseiderably. In particular, the European institutions (Council, Parliament and Commission) as well as European NGOs have actively contributed, to the increase in the general awareness of this unacceptable violation of women's human rights. A number of initiatives have been taken either at European level or in association with partners in third countries and with specialised organisations. Despite this unprecedented mobilisation, there is ample evidence that large numbers of women continue to be trafficked into EU Member States and into other development countries. They are often forced into prostitution, frequently in conditions akin to slavery. The main flow is coming from/or through the candidate countries. The trafficking is often carried out by professional criminal organisations. New networks are created constantly, and their methods become increasingly ruthless. This is a worrying trend for the European Union. Projects in this field, as well as multidisciplinary exchanges of information by experts and research work have, over the last two years, led to a better understanding of this type of organised criminal activity and have enabled certain shortcomings in our efforts to be identified. The objectives of this new Communication are: - to assure that the questionof trafficking in women for sexual exploitation remains high on the political agenda of the EU and that the Member States are encouraged to fully implement their legal obligations; - to reinforce international and European co-operation including both governments and NGOs in countries of origin, transit and desstination; - to strengthen a multi-disciplinary approach focusing on both prevention, research, law enforcement and an effective sentencing of traffickers, as well as on support to victims; - to address a clear message to the candidate countries, in the context of the accession process, of the necessity to take the national measures and to cooperate with the EU already now on this issue. Furthermore, this communication responds to requests made by the European Parliament to report back, before the end of 1998, on the progress made in relation to the first communication of 1996 (Wadington Report of 27/11/1997). It seeks therefore: - to indicate the present state of play in the fight against trafficking in women and to identify gaps; - to recommend a number of new targeted initiatives as well as the deepening of certain existing actions to the various parties.

Combating organized crime: trafficking in women, further actions following the COM(1996)0567

1999/2125(COS) - 19/05/2000 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament adopted its report drafted by Patsy SORENSEN (Green/EFA, Belgium) on further actions in the fight against trafficking for women. The Parliament called on the IGC to insert into the Treaty a clear legal base for combating all forms of violence against women and integrating police and judicial co-operation into the Community pillar in order to achieve greater legislative coherence. It recommended a common EU policy focused on a legal framework on combating offenders and protecting victims. It emphasised the importance of a clear and harmonised definition of trafficking and called on Member States and applicant countries to define trafficking in women, and related slavery-like practices, as a crime in their legislation, as as well as to set up or reinforce special anti-trafficking police units. The Parliament called on the Commission to make specific proposals towards the harmonisation of national laws and methods of detection and prosecution with a view to ensuring a detailed results, including the seizure of the proceeds of criminal activities and the non-internment of trafficked persons. It advocated measures to protect witnesses and the introduction of rules whereby NGOs may bring court actions on behalf of victims. The key role of Europol was stressed. The Parliament expressed its concern that new information technologies were used to advertise the sale of women and called on Commission and Member States and applicant countries to initiate research on causes and market mechanisms of supply and demand.