Basic information

1999/2139(COS) COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic)	Procedure completed
Employment. Joint report 1999 **Subject** 4.15 Employment policy, action to combat unemployment	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
EMPL Employment and Social Affairs	MENRAD Winfried (PPE-DE)	27/07/1999

Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
ECON Economic and Monetary Affairs	GROSCH Mathieu (PPE-DE)	13/09/1999
ITRE Industry, External Trade, Research, Energy	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
FEMM Women's Rights and Equal Opportunities	THEORIN Maj Britt (PSE)	02/09/1999

Council of the European Union

Council configuration	Meetings	Date
Social Affairs	2208	1999-10-22

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
08/09/1999	Non-legislative basic document published	SEC(1999)1386	Summary
14/10/1999	Vote in committee		Summary
14/10/1999	Committee report tabled for plenary	A5-0046/1999	
22/10/1999	Debate in Council		
25/10/1999	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
04/11/1999	Decision by Parliament	T5-0095/1999	Summary
04/11/1999	End of procedure in Parliament		

07/06/2000	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	1999/2139(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 050
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	EMPL/5/12071

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A5-0046/1999 OJ C 158 07.06.2000, p. 0008	14/10/1999	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T5-0095/1999 OJ C 158 07.06.2000, p. 0010-0043	04/11/1999	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Non-legislative basic document	SEC(1999)1386	08/09/1999	Summary

Employment. Joint report 1999

1999/2139(COS) - 04/11/1999 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The Parliament adopted its resolution drafted by Mr. Winfried MENRAD (EPP, D) concerning the Commission's draft Joint Employment Report. The Parliament calls on the Commission and the Council to improve the relationship between the broad economic guidelines with regard to their content, their timing and the relationship between the Council committees involved. It also calls on the Council to adopt, unamended, the Commission's draft recommendations on the implementation of Member States' employment policies and on the Member States to take these recommendations into account, as a matter of priority, in their National Action Plans. The EP believes that it would be useful for it to participate in developing the employment policy guidelines and, jointly with the Commission, monitor implementation of the European employment initiatives in the Member States. With respect to co-ordination between employment and economic policy, the Parliament expects that it should have full recognition and closer involvement within the exisiting institutional framework in developing and implementing the European Employment Pact, and its full involvement in macroeconomic dialogue - if appropriate, also by means of an Interinstitutional Agreement. On the subject of active measures to create jobs, the EP points out that there are clear distinctions between direct and indirect measures by Member States to promote the labour market; it expects Member States to pursue their employment policies in a more balanced manner. With respect to the Guidelines, it calls on the Member States to involve the two sides of industry more closely in the process of implementing the employment policy guidelines; it strongly supports the proposal for a new guideline on communication and information technology, and points out that this is a clear example, in view of its implementation, of the need to boost public and private investment in a more pro-active way; it takes the view that the concept of lifelong learning needs to be strengthened in the guidelines and calls on the Commission to devise verifiable minimum targets for participation by the labour force of the different age groups of both sexes in further training; it requests the Member States to gear their training systems more closely to the requirements of the labour market and it calls on the Commission and the Member States to develop feasible alternatives to taxation on labour. In relation to the employment strategy and social protection, the Parliament believes that the link between employment, quality of job creation and social protection must be strengthened in the framework of the Luxembourg strategy; it calls

for common minimum social standards not only with regard to terms of employment but also in various other areas of employment and socialm legislation and calls on the Member States, if the retirement age is raised by an amendment to the social security legislation applicable to unemployed workers, to ensure that the latter enjoy precedence in employment programmes, so that they do not remain deprived of both employment and pensions. With respect to equality of opportunity and mainstreaming, theParliament calls upon the Council and the Member States to: - enhance national capacities and strengthen legal and institutional frameworks for mainstreaming gender into employment policies; - set targets that measure the inclusion of women in training programmes; - develop a set of benchmarks and criteria for the implementation and evaluation of gender mainstreaming in national employment policies; - create benefit incentives that encourage female participation, by extending availability of parental and child care benefits, and taking child care costs into account in means testing of benefits to low income families. Concerning evaluation, the Parliament expects the Commission and the Member States to formulate the targets in such a way as to permit evaluation and repeats its call, in view of the proposals submitted by the Commission, for comparability of national statistics in order to facilitate uniform appraisal and appropriate monitoring of application of the employment policy guidelines. It also calls on the Commission and the Member States to make their statistical systems relating to employment factors comparable by the start of the year 2000, in order to enable implementation of the employment guidelines to be uniformly evaluated and properly monitored.

Employment. Joint report 1999

1999/2139(COS) - 08/09/1999 - Non-legislative basic document

PURPOSE : presentation of a new report on employment measures in 1999. CONTENT : In parallel with its presentation of new employment guidelines for the year 2000, the Commission submitted to the European Parliament and the Council of Ministers a report on the employment measures taken by Member States to implement the 1999 employment guidelines. The main conclusions of the report are as follows: 1) Significant progress has been made across the Union, but it varies from one Member State to the next. For the first time since 1990, employment increased in all Member States, although the increase in Germany was negligible. Unemployment fell to 9.9% of the workforce in 1998 and the trend appears to be continuing in 1999. The fall in unemployment was similar for men and women; 2) Important structural challenges persist on the labour markets of the Member States: the EU employment rate is 61%, and still far below that of the US and Japan. The last four years of economic recovery have done little to improve the low rate of employment in the Union, in particular the employment of inactive pprime-age women and older people. The employment rate of women, at around 51% is still 20% lower than that for men. For older people in the age bracket 50-64 years, the employment rate amounted to only 47.6%. Long-term unemployment is still a serious problem because it affects 5.2 million in Europe; youth unemployment has fallen but remains too high with 4.3 young people unemployed in 1998; 3) The Member States respond to the challenges by adopting more preventive than active strategies, although Member States' approaches do differ quite widely; 4) The reform of tax and social security systems is under way but progress is slow. Radical changes are needed to ensure a transition from passive measures of benefits to active measures of support for employability; 5) Member States recognise the crucial role played by life-long learning; however, their commitment is inadequate and in many Member States there is a lack of practical objectives to offer continuing training for all those who want it; 6) The Member States mention a large number of initiatives aimed at improving entrepreneurship but the absence of clear objectives and deadlines, in conjunction with the lack of comparable indicators, makes it difficult to evaluate the results achieved, including the creation of jobs in the service sector: most Member States propose measures linked to the promotion of the information society and health services but progress is slow. Even if there hase been a reduction in administrative constraints in most Member States, important efforts are still required to make the taxation system more favourable to employment; 7) Greater progress is required in promoting adaptability, in modernising work organisation, an area in which the social partners have a particular reqponsibility; 8) Strengthened political efforts are needed in regard to the persistent problem of equal opportunities between men and women on the labour market: considerable progress needs to be made to reduce the gap between men and women in terms of access to employment, unemployment, and remunerations. The situation in regard to child care and the care of otherdependents also requires improvement; 9) The progress achieved in drawing up and using common indicators for commitments made at European level needs to be followed up and developed: much remains to be done in 2000 in order to arrive at an agreement between Member States on a common monitoring system; 10) The partnership approach needs to be further developed: the social partners need to play a role at local level via the national employment action plans. They still need to work on putting the guidelines into practice. Lastly, the report stresses the dissemination of good practices between Member States in terms of employment. There are 27 practical cases which constitute, for each one of the pillars of the guidelines, pilot or experimental examples of good practice in combating unemployment and promoting employment.