Basic information

1999/2163(COS) COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic)	Procedure completed
European year of lifelong learning, 1996 (dec. 2493/95/EC). Report **Subject** 4.40.01 European area for education, training and lifelong learning 4.40.15 Vocational education and training	

Key players

European Parliament	**Committee responsible**	**Rapporteur**	**Appointed**
	CULT Culture, Youth, Education, Media and Sport	GUTIÉRREZ-CORTINES Cristina (PPE-DE)	20/10/1999
	Committee for opinion	**Rapporteur for opinion**	**Appointed**
	EMPL Employment and Social Affairs	EVANS Jill (V/ALE)	22/11/1999
Council of the European Union			

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
15/09/1999	Non-legislative basic document published	COM(1999)0447	Summary
25/10/1999	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
13/07/2000	Vote in committee		Summary
13/07/2000	Committee report tabled for plenary	A5-0200/2000	
08/09/2000	Decision by Parliament	T5-0389/2000	Summary
08/09/2000	Debate in Parliament		
08/09/2000	End of procedure in Parliament		
07/05/2001	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	1999/2163(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	CULT/5/12088

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A5-0200/2000 OJ C 135 07.05.2001, p. 0011	13/07/2000	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T5-0389/2000 OJ C 135 07.05.2001, p. 0299-0304	08/09/2000	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Non-legislative basic document	COM(1999)0447	15/09/1999	Summary

European year of lifelong learning, 1996 (dec. 2493/95/EC). Report

1999/2163(COS) - 08/09/2000 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

In adopting a Resolution on the Commission's Report on the implementation, results and overall assessment of the European Year of Lifelong Learning (1996), the European Parliament stresses that Lifelong Learning is crucial in order to secure personal fulfilment, social integration and participation in democratic decision-making processes and can, therefore, not be seen merely in terms of demand and supply. Furthermore, it stresses that the impact which the year had on businesses and social forces in terms of awareness-raising was positive. However, the Parliament regrets the slow start of the activities under the European Year and calls upon the Commission to speed up preparatory work and internal procedures in order to allow for a timely launch of Community actions in future. The Parliament also stresses the importance of the necessary attention being paid to the lifelong learning factor in the implementation of the new generation of programmes such as Socrates II and Leonardo. With regard to the budgetary aspect however, the Parliament regrets the fact that the budget for the European Year of Lifelong Learning 1996 was only ECU 8.4 m for the fifteen Member States and their three EEA partners. The Parliament also beleives that the fact that the ECU 8.4 m budget was trebled by the cofinancing provided by the participant countries, thus bringing the total budget to ECU 34 m, proves how much interest there is in initiatives of this kind in Europe. With regard to the Commission's report, the Parliament believes that requests for projects to be submitted was ambiguous and that the report lacked qualitative data. In addition, it believes that the report lacked sufficient information about examples of good practice and that it also lacked an evaluation of the involvement of democratically elected local and regional bodies. Against this background, the Parliament calls on the Commission to, amongst others, address the following: - define various concepts and aspects of vocational training and lifelong learning more precisely in future programmes; - provide clearer terms of reference in the submission of projects seeking funding; - that the Commission and Member States devise specific measures to encourage relations between formal education, vocational training and lifelong learning; - that the Commission create European networks of vocational training centres and enterprises; - that the Commission ensure that the priority projects include vocational training in the sectors where innvoation are change are most urgently needed. In conclusion, the Parliament calls on the Member States to cooperate with the Commission in the collection of data concerning lifelong learning, with a view to ensuring the future comparability of data at European level. Also, the Parliament calls on the Member States to extend the information networks so as to ensure wide public access to targeted information on the existing programmes in this field. The Parliament instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Commission, the Council and the governments and parliaments of the member States, the Republic of Iceland, the Kingdom of Norway and the Principality of Liechtenstein.

European year of lifelong learning, 1996 (dec. 2493/95/EC). Report

1999/2163(COS) - 15/09/1999 - Non-legislative basic document

PURPOSE : to present a report on the implementation of the European Year of Lifelong Learning (1996). CONTENT : this report, which is being submitted in accordance with Article 8 of European Parliament and Council Decision 2493/95/EC on the implementation, results and overall

assessment of the European Year of Lifelong Learning (1996) (see procedure COD/1994/0199), seeks to provide an overall assessment of the European Year and to draw some lessons of relevance for future Community activities in the field. From this report, it would appear that the concept of lifelong learning gained acceptance in public opinion and political discussion indicating that the European year was a timely initiative which has helped to change society and attitudes fundamentally, and that it can be claimed to have been one of the more successful initiatives of this type. The European Year set out to promote lifelong learning by acting on both the demand and supply sides : - on the one hand, raising awareness among the general public of the need and the desirability of continuing to learn; - on the other hand, stimulating debate on how delivery systems can cater for new learning needs. The Commission attached great importance to implementing it on a decentralised basis and in close partnership with the bodies designated by the participating countries. Carrying on the operation simultaneously throughout the European economic area gave it added weight, facilitated transnational communication of ideas and exchange of good practice and strengthened the voice of advocates of a lifelong approach to learning in the ongoing education debate in the participating States. The situation encountered in the different States varies considerably as regards both the pre-existing level of penetration of the idea of lifelong learning in general consciousness and the availability of lifelong learning opportunities. Nevertheless, whether it was in areas where the concept was scarcely known or in areas with well- established traditions of lifelong learning, the response encountered was one of enthusiasm, and, above all, one of motivation to improve on the status quo. The budget of 8.34 million Ecus co-financed some 550 projects (representing 5 000 events) at Community, national, regional or local level, to a total value of 34 million Ecus. Press coverage is estimated to have been some 4 000 articles, and there were 80 000 visits to the internet site. Irrespective of the level of funding, the precise impact of the Year cannot really be scientifically measured; however, there is plenty of evidence to support the claim that the initiative has improved the situation in Member States and achieved lasting results. Many new initiatives launched during 1996 or since then in the Member States - in addition to the projects which were cofinanced within the framework of the European Year - have taken up the theme of lifelong learning. These have included major reforms of the education and training systems, measures focusing on educational participation by unrepresented groups, pilot actions and government policy documents. At Community level, the Amsterdam Treaty (as a lasting heritage of the European Year) has enshrined the principle oflifelong learning in the preamble to the the EC Treaty, whereby the Contracting parties state that they are 'determined to promote the development of the highest possible level of knowledge for their peoples through wide access to education and through its continuous updating'. Equally, this concept received a further impetus from the publication of the Commission's White Paper "Teaching and Learning - Towards the Learning Society" which sets out a series of objectives to generalise lifelong learning throughout European society, or, again, in the Action Plan "Learning in the information society" presented by the Commission in 1996. At the end of the European Year, on 20.12.1996, the Council adopted "Conclusions on a strategy for lifelong learning" which presented a set of principles underpinning a strategy for lifelong learning and a framework of areas for further development.