Basic information

1999/2177(COS) COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic)	Procedure completed
Sustainable urban development: economic and social regeneration of cities and of neighbourhoods in crisis, URBAN **Subject** 3.70.20 Sustainable development 4.70.04 Urban policy, cities, town and country planning	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
RETT Regional Policy, Transport and Tourism	MCCARTHY Arlene (PSE)	24/11/1999

Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
LIBE Citizens' Freedoms and Rights, Justice and Home Affairs	CEYHUN Ozan (V/ALE)	23/11/1999
EMPL Employment and Social Affairs	GHILARDOTTI Fiorella (PSE)	22/11/1999
ENVI Environment, Public Health, Consumer Policy	JACKSON Caroline (PPE-DE)	07/12/1999
FEMM Women's Rights and Equal Opportunities	KRATSA-TSAGAROPOULOU Rodi (PPE-DE)	25/11/1999

Council of the European Union

European Commission

Commission DG	Commissioner
Regional and Urban Policy	

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
13/10/1999	Non-legislative basic document published	COM(1999)0477	Summary

01/12/1999	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
26/01/2000	Vote in committee		Summary
26/01/2000	Committee report tabled for plenary	A5-0026/2000	
14/02/2000	Debate in Parliament		
15/02/2000	Decision by Parliament	T5-0046/2000	Summary
15/02/2000	End of procedure in Parliament		
29/11/2000	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	1999/2177(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	RETT/5/12153

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A5-0026/2000 OJ C 339 29.11.2000, p. 0005	26/01/2000	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T5-0046/2000 OJ C 339 29.11.2000, p. 0022-0044	15/02/2000	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Non-legislative basic document	COM(1999)0477	13/10/1999	Summary
Follow-up document	COM(2002)0308	14/06/2002	Summary

Other institutions and bodies

Institution/body	Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
EESC	Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report	CES1134/1999 OJ C 051 23.02.2000, p. 0089	08/12/1999	
CofR	Committee of the Regions: opinion	CDR0357/1999 OJ C 156 06.06.2000, p. 0029	17/02/2000	
		RCC0001/2001		

CofA	Follow-up document	OJ C 124 25.04.2001, p. 0001	21/02/2001	Summary

Sustainable urban development: economic and social regeneration of cities and of neighbourhoods in crisis, URBAN

1999/2177(COS) - 14/06/2002 - Follow-up document

Urban areas face significant challenges and opportunities. Cities are key locations for the growth of the EU, but they contain blackspots with high rates of unemployment, crime, poverty and dereliction. The URBAN Community Initiative aims to assist urban areas in crisis, particularly in terms of its three main axes of spending: physical and environmental regeneration; social inclusion; entrepreneurship and employment. It does this in a way with significant added value vis-a-vis national policies and other EU policies, notably in terms of: -targeting on small areas of severe deprivation -a focus on issues of social inclusion, the integration of minorities (who are especially concentrated in URBAN areas) and the natural and physical environment. By removing these barriers to investment, URBAN contributes to economic cohesion and the sustainable growth of the city as a whole. -local partnership. In one third of cases, local authorities constitute the managing authority, and in a further third, they perform many of these functions. In over 80% of cases, local community groups participated in the formulation of the programme. -a network programme for the exchange of experience and best practice. The key characteristics of URBAN: -it is one of the 4 Community initiatives within the EU Structural Funds. The others are Interreg, Leader+ and Equal. -it was launched in 1994. URBAN I (1994-99) aimed to tackle social exclusion in 118 European cities. URBAN II (2001-2006) builds on this success with improvements such as streamlined administration and a more transparent criteria for the selection of sites. -the 70 URBAN II programmes cover a population of some 2.2 million inhabitants, with an ERDF contribution of EUR 730 million and total investment of EUR 1600 million. Aid per inhabitant is some 30% higher than for Objective 2. -URBAN II sites were selected by Member States on the basis of socio-economic indicators reflecting criteria in the guidelines -unemployment and crime rates are both around twice the EU average in URBAN II sites. The proportion of immigrants is more than twice the figure for the cities participating in the URBAN Audit. The proportion of green spaces is half the average for urban areas in the EU. -the programmes proposed under URBAN II give the highest priority to physical and environmental regeneration, which accounts for 40% of planned spending. The other two axes account for a further 42%. -of the 70 programmes, there are 31 inner city areas, 27 peripheral areas, 4 mixed areas and 8 entire cities. There seems to be no direct link between this typology and the priority given to different types of measure. The report concludes that the urban question is an increasing political priority in the EU. The approaches developed under URBAN and other Community Initiatives have potential lessons for the future of European Policy: -the integrated approach, whereby social, environmental and economic measures are combined in a limited area to form a coherent response to the multi-facetted problems of the area. -a focus on relatively small areas. -the flexibility to select areas according to national needs in a transparent manner. -administrative simplification and flexibility -a strong focus on local partnership, including local community groups. This builds local capacity and promotes new models of European governance.

Sustainable urban development: economic and social regeneration of cities and of neighbourhoods in crisis, URBAN

1999/2177(COS) - 15/02/2000 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament adopted the report by Ms. Arlene McCarthy (PES, UK) concerning the resolution on the URBAN initiative which seeks to tackle urban deprivation. It calls in particular for partnership or close co-operation with local authorities in order to strengthen the role of the non-governmental sector in urban development. It also calls on the Commission to urge the Member States to grant 'more adequate resources' to URBAN and to ensure ethnic minority participation. In addition, the European Parliament calls on the Commission to ensure that in the selection procedure projects that cover the field of environmental safety as well as the social and economic aspects are considered. The Parliament considers that the early involvement of local partners in the design and delivery of the programmes should be a condition for their selection. It stresses that the minimum amount of EUR 500 per inhabitant in each eligible area should be applied in the light of circumstances in the target area and not as a 'mechanical objective'. The European Parliament also notes that the timetable for submission of programmes is inadequate to allow for partnership and capacity building and quality of programmes, and accordingly calls for the extension of the time-scale to a realistic period. The Commission and the Member States are called upon to ensure an extensive publicity and communication campaign for the new URBAN initiative. They are also called upon to provide full and transparent information on the selection procedures and the methodology for the URBAN initiative, and to inform the Parliament regularly on the implementation of URBAN.

Sustainable urban development: economic and social regeneration of cities and of neighbourhoods in crisis, URBAN

1999/2177(COS) - 13/10/1999 - Non-legislative basic document

PURPOSE : to lay down guidelines for a Community Initiative concerning economic and social regeneration of cities and of neighbourhoods in crisis in order to promote sustainable urban development (URBAN). CONTENT : on the basis of experience gained in the URBAN Initiative framework (1994-1999 programming period), the objectives of the new Community Initiative proposed are as follows : - to promote the formation and implementation of particularly innovative strategies for sustainable economic and social regeneration of small and medium sized towns and cities or of distressed urban neighbourhoods in larger cities; - to enhance and exchange knowledge and experience in relation to sustainable urban regeneration and development in the European Union. In order to fulfil these objectives, the urban regeneration strategies must adhere to the following priciples : - sufficient critical mass of population and associated support structres to facilitate the formulation and implementation of innovative and sustainable urban development

programmes and a creative approach to urban governance and sustainable change; - strong local partnership to define challenges, strategy, priorities, resource allocation and to implement, monitor and evaluate the strategy; - linkage of the strategic plan for the area in question to the economic, social, environmental and physical network and strategies for the wider urban area or region; - integration of the economic, social, security environment and transport aspects, including equality of access to jobs and training opportunities from areas of concentrated exclusion; - promotion of equal opportunities between men and women; - promotion of the implementation at local level of EU environmental policies and legislation; - complementarity with the main forms of assistance under the Structural Funds and other Community Initiatives; - high quality of submissions through competition for selection of fewer, but high profile, programmes. The total contribution by the ERDF to URBAN during the period 2000-06 is fixed at EUR 700 million.

Sustainable urban development: economic and social regeneration of cities and of neighbourhoods in crisis, URBAN

1999/2177(COS) - 21/02/2001 - Follow-up document

This report details the Special Report No 1/2001 from the Court of Auditors concerning the URBAN Community initiative. The Court decided to examine the URBAN Community initiative because of the large number of Community measures specifically targeting the urban question. URBAN is also one of the four Community initiatives to have been renewed for the period 2000 to 2006. The aim of the Court's audit was to examine the consistency of the regulatory framework and appraise the quality of the programming, implementation, financial management and evaluation of URBAN. The Council concludes by stating that the URBAN Community initiative has supported the implementation of many urban development projects in 118 areas of the European Union and has provided local authorities with access to Community co-financing. However, these projects could, in the Court's view, equally well have been carried out under existing Community measures, thus avoiding the creation of the new procedures and expensive management structures. In future any new Community intervention should be preceded by in-depth analysis of needs, taking into account the Court's observations, as well as previous experience, so as to ensure that the added value which they generate is real. It should also be noted that the implementation of URBAN was characterised by very long delays, so that operations were concentrated at the end of the period. This was was the consequence of superficial, or even non-existant, ex ante appraisals of the programmes, unrealistic programming and poor monitoring. Lastly, the Court's main findings concerning the implementation of URBAN are similar to those already expressed in previous inquiries in the Structural Fund measures, and the Community initiatives in particular. The new Regulations at the start of the 2000 to 2006 programming period represent a fresh opportunity for the Commission and the Member States to introduce tangible initiatives rapidly, with the aim of simplifying and improving the programming, management, monitoring and evaluation of structural actions. The Commission is in agreement with the Court's opinion on this matter.