Basic information

1999/2178(COS) COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic) Development of European territory: trans-European cooperation Community initiative, INTERREG **Subject** 4.70.04 Urban policy, cities, town and country planning	Procedure completed

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
RETT Regional Policy, Transport and Tourism	DECOURRIÈRE Francis (PPE-DE)	24/11/1999

Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
AFET Foreign Affairs, Human Rights, Common Security, Defense	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
ITRE Industry, External Trade, Research, Energy	RASCHHOFER Daniela (NI)	07/12/1999
EMPL Employment and Social Affairs	STAUNER Gabriele (PPE-DE)	22/11/1999
AGRI Agriculture and Rural Development	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
PECH Fisheries	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	23/11/1999
FEMM Women's Rights and Equal Opportunities	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	

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)0479	Summary
01/12/1999	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
26/01/2000	Vote in committee		Summary
26/01/2000	Committee report tabled for plenary	A5-0028/2000	
14/02/2000	Debate in Parliament		
15/02/2000	Decision by Parliament	T5-0047/2000	Summary
15/02/2000	End of procedure in Parliament		
29/11/2000	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	1999/2178(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/5/12154

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A5-0028/2000 OJ C 339 29.11.2000, p. 0005	26/01/2000	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T5-0047/2000 OJ C 339 29.11.2000, p. 0022-0047	15/02/2000	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Non-legislative basic document	COM(1999)0479	13/10/1999	Summary

Other institutions and bodies

Institution/body	Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
EESC	Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report	CES1135/1999 OJ C 051 23.02.2000, p. 0092	08/12/1999	

CofR	Committee of the Regions: opinion	CDR0327/2000 OJ C 156 06.06.2000, p. 0018	16/02/2000	

Development of European territory: trans-European cooperation Community initiative, INTERREG

1999/2178(COS) - 15/02/2000 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament adopted the report by Mr. Francis Decourrière (EPP/ED, Fr) on the resolution recommending the approval of the new INTERREG initiative that aims to promote regional cross-border co-operation. It stresses in particular the need to concentrate on the remote regions and for closer co-operation with regions in Eastern Europe. Among the amendments that were adopted was one calling for particular attention to be paid to countries sharing a common border with the European Union. The European Parliament calls on the Commission and the Member States to strengthen the role and responsibility of the regions at the EU·s borders, not only in devising regional development programmes but also in exercising their powers. This also means that some technical assistance should be made available for this purpose. In addition, the EP calls on the Commission to co-ordinate better with INTERREG the various instruments used for co-operation projects in third countries, namely ISPA, MEDA, PHARE, SAPARD, TACIS and EDF. It calls on the Commission to forward its report on the measures for improving co-ordination between INTERREG and the various above-mentioned Community instruments before 01.06.2000 at the latest. The Parliament stresses that the programme takes into account of Member States· decisions to reduce CO2 emissions. It also calls on the Commission to clarify how co-operation might be enhanced between island and maritime regions. In conclusion, the European Parliament stresses that greater flexibility is needed given the different legal and political situations in the Union as regards the powers of regions and local authorities. Therefore, it calls on the Commission to support the setting up of a joint management of bodies on a transnational and cross-border basis in the interest of effective co-operation.

Development of European territory: trans-European cooperation Community initiative, INTERREG

1999/2178(COS) - 13/10/1999 - Non-legislative basic document

PURPOSE : to strengthen economic and social cohesion in the European Union by promoting cross-border, transnational and interregional co-operation and balanced development of the EU territory. CONTENT : the overall aim of the INTERREG Initiatives has been, and remains, that national borders should not be a barrier to the balanced development and integration of the European territory. The isolation of border areas has been of a double nature: on the one hand, the presence of borders cuts off border communities from each other economically, socially and culturally and hinders the coherent management of eco-systems; on the other hand, border areas have often been neglected under national policy, with the result that their economies have tended to become peripheral within national boundaries. The single market and EMU are strong catalysts for changing this situation. Nevertheless, the scope for strengthening co-operation to the mutual advantage of border areas throughout the Union remains enormous. The challenge is all the greater when the future enlargement of the EU is considered, as this will increase the number of internal EU borders and, progressively, shift the Union's external borders eastwards. In this context, the objective of the new phase of INTERREG is to strengthen economic and social cohesion in the European Union by promoting cross-border, transnational and interregional co-operation and balanced development of the EU territory. Action in relation to the borders and border areas between the Member States and between the EU non-member countries is, therefore, at the heart of the Initiative. Particular priority needs to be given to the external borders of the European Union in view of enlargement as well as to insular and ultraperipheral regions. Building on the experience of the previous INTERREG Initiatives, this new phase of the Initiative will be implemented under three strands: - promoting integrated regional development between neighbouring border regions, including external borders and certain maritime borders (Strand A); the bulk of the financial resources is devoted to this strand; - contributing to the harmonious territorial integration across the EU (Strand B); - improve regional development and cohesion policies and techniques through transnational/interregional co-operation (Strand C); this is by far the smallest strand financially. The main challenge for the new phase of INTERREG is, therefore, to build on the positive experiences of genuine co-operation within current programmes and progressively develop structures for such co-operation across the European Union and with neighbouring countries. To achieve these goals, the development of co-operation under the INTERREG Initiative will be governed by the following principles: - joint cross-border/transnational strategy and development programme; - partnership and a "bottom up" approach; - complementarity with the "mainstream" of the Structural Funds; - a more integrated approach to the implementation of the Community Iniatives; - effective co-ordination between INTERREG and external EU policy instruments especially with a view to enlargement. In the course of 2000 the Commission will make appropriate proposals to further strengthen co-ordination between ERDF and PHARE, TACIS, MEDA, SAPARD and ISPA funding. In addition, the INTERREG Community Initiative shall be jointly financed by the Member States and the Community. The total contribution by the ERDF to INTERREG during the period 2000-2006 is fixed at EUR 4.875 million at 1999 prices. The Commission shall adopt financial allocations for each Member State. They shall ensure that between 50 and 80% of their total allocation is allocated to cross-border cooperation under Strand A. 6% of each Member State's indicative amount will be allocated to Strand C. For the period 2000-2002, for relevant non member countries participating in INTERREG, cooperation will be assisted by Phare-CBC, with up to EUR 480 million, as well as by Phare national programmes, ISPA and SAPARD, as appropriate. For TACIS and MEDA, allocations for coordinated activities will be determined in the course of the annual budgetary procedures, and in accordance with existing operational rules, with a view to maximising cross-border and trans-national cooperation across the Union's external borders.