








Basic information	
1999/2197(COS) COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic)	Procedure completed
Better lawmaking 1998 and 1999: follow-up of the report COM(1998) 0345 and report for the European Council in Helsinki Subject 8.50.02 Legislative simplification, coordination, codification	

Key players				
European Parliament	Committee responsible		Rapporteur	Appointed
	 JURI	Legal Affairs and Internal Market	WUERMELING Joachim (PPE-DE)	23/11/1999
	Committee for opinion		Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
	 AFCO	Constitutional Affairs	VAN DEN BERG Margrietus (PSE)	26/01/2000
	 PETI	Petitions	CANDAL Carlos (PSE)	23/02/2000
	Council of the European Union			
European Commission	Commission DG		Commissioner	
	Secretariat-General			

Key events			
Date	Event	Reference	Summary
03/11/1999	Non-legislative basic document published	COM(1999)0562 	Summary
17/01/2000	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
09/10/2000	Vote in committee		Summary
09/10/2000	Committee report tabled for plenary	A5-0269/2000	
26/10/2000	Decision by Parliament	T5-0490/2000	Summary
26/10/2000	Debate in Parliament		
26/10/2000	End of procedure in Parliament		

12/07/2001	Final act published in Official Journal		
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Technical information	
Procedure reference	1999/2197(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	JURI/5/12205

Documentation gateway				
European Parliament				
Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A5-0269/2000 OJ C 197 12.07.2001, p. 0006	09/10/2000	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T5-0490/2000 OJ C 197 12.07.2001, p. 0228-0433	26/10/2000	Summary
European Commission				
Document type		Reference	Date	Summary
Supplementary non-legislative basic document		COM(1998)0715 	01/12/1998	Summary
Non-legislative basic document		COM(1999)0562 	03/11/1999	Summary
Other institutions and bodies				
Institution/body	Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
CofR	Committee of the Regions: opinion	CDR0050/1999 OJ C 374 23.12.1999, p. 0011	15/09/1999	
CofR	Committee of the Regions: opinion	CDR0018/2000 OJ C 226 08.08.2000, p. 0060	13/04/2000	

Better lawmaking 1998 and 1999: follow-up of the report COM(1998)0345 and report for the European Council in Helsinki

1999/2197(COS) - 03/11/1999 - Non-legislative basic document

OBJECTIVE: to submit a report on the Commission's actions on better lawmaking. CONTENT: The Commission reports on its application of the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality, together with measures taken to make legislation simpler and more accessible. - Current events show that

there are some areas where increasing action is needed at Union level, such as food safety policy, asylum and immigration, crime, and reconstruction in the Balkans. - The results in 1999 demonstrate that the Commission has applied the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality strictly, as required by the Amsterdam Protocol. - Subsidiarity: alternatives to legislation such as the direct agreement with the motor industry on vehicle transmissions have been explored, as has self-regulation. - Proportionality: the report gives instances where Community action has been kept as simple as possible consistent with the need for effective measures. - The Commission will continue its practice of prior consultation on legislation. With regard to the growing political interest on better drafting, an inter-institutional agreement was adopted in December 1998 and published in March 1999. - The report gives instances of Commission actions to simplify legislation and of formal and informal action taken to simplify legislative instruments. - The sites on the Europa server are more user-friendly and enjoy growing success.

Better lawmaking 1998 and 1999: follow-up of the report COM(1998)0345 and report for the European Council in Helsinki

1999/2197(COS) - 01/12/1998 - Supplementary non-legislative basic document

PURPOSE : To present a report on the Commission's actions to improve the quality of Community legislation. **CONTENT :** The Commission reports that the project on "better lawmaking" is bearing fruit and attracting greater political attention, notably at the Cardiff European council. - The Protocol annexed to the Treaty of Amsterdam gives clear rules on the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality. the important points to note are that subsidiarity does not apply to the exercise of exclusive Community powers, but only in the area of shared powers. The proposal must demonstrate why Community action is necessary. Proportionality seeks to ensure that the impact of Community law on national law does not go beyond what is necessary to achieve Treaty objectives. These principles remain evolutionary and dynamic. - There are difficulties in the application of the principles, notably pressure arising from the interinstitutional nature of the Community, the specific demands of Member States and economic operators. These do not always correspond to the principles expounded. - There have been positive results in 1998. Each proposal bears a statement of grounds regarding subsidiarity and proportionality. There is a careful impact assessment and increasing dialogue with partners. - Joint actions by the institutions to improve the quality of drafting will offer better results. Council and Parliament must be far more discriminating when they ask the Commission to present proposals and avoid making proposals more complex by burdening them with detail, particularly when unanimity is required. Member States must transpose legislation correctly. This is a shared responsibility.

Better lawmaking 1998 and 1999: follow-up of the report COM(1998)0345 and report for the European Council in Helsinki

1999/2197(COS) - 26/10/2000 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament endorsed the resolution drafted by Mr Joachim WUERMERLING (EPP/ED, D) on the 1998 and 1999 Commission report on "Better Lawmaking". The House voted by 132 voted in favour and 47 against with 5 abstentions. With regard to the report in particular, the Parliament calls on the Commission to include in its future reports a section detailing why it chose to put forward specific proposals for regulations or directives so that it can be determined whether the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality were applicable or not. The Commission is also called upon to promote the use of clearer language. More importantly, the Commission is requested to include a some sort of scoreboard of 'superfluous' legislation with a view to repealing that legislation and ensuring that the existing body of law is indeed simplified, transparent and effective. As regards subsidiarity, the Parliament takes the view that the subsidiarity principle and proportionality must apply in all areas of legislation, including the decisions as to whether to make a matter the subject of internal market legislation. Equally, Member States are called upon to improve their scrutiny of EU legislation and policymaking and to hold their own governments to greater account for their actions at EU level. Finally, the Commission should inform the public of their rights and duties under European legislation policy.