Basic information

1999/2205(COS) COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic)	Procedure completed
European year against racism in 1997: implementation. Report **Subject** 7.30.08 Action to combat racism and xenophobia	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
LIBE Citizens' Freedoms and Rights, Justice and Home Affairs	LUDFORD Baroness Sarah (ELDR)	29/07/1999

Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
BUDG Budgets	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
JURI Legal Affairs and Internal Market	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
EMPL Employment and Social Affairs	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	

Council of the European Union

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
03/06/1999	Non-legislative basic document published	COM(1999)0268	Summary
13/12/1999	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
23/02/2000	Vote in committee		Summary
23/02/2000	Committee report tabled for plenary	A5-0049/2000	
15/03/2000	Debate in Parliament		
16/03/2000	Decision by Parliament	T5-0120/2000	Summary
16/03/2000	End of procedure in Parliament		
29/12/2000	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	1999/2205(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	LIBE/4/11037

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A5-0049/2000 OJ C 377 29.12.2000, p. 0004	23/02/2000	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T5-0120/2000 OJ C 377 29.12.2000, p. 0183-0366	16/03/2000	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Non-legislative basic document	COM(1999)0268	03/06/1999	Summary

Other institutions and bodies

Institution/body	Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
OS	Supplementary non-legislative basic document	N5-0015/2000	20/01/2000	Summary

European year against racism in 1997: implementation. Report

1999/2205(COS) - 20/01/2000 - Supplementary non-legislative basic document

PURPOSE : To present the 1998 Annual Report and the Report on the activities of the European Monitoring Centre on Racism and Xenophobia.
CONTENT : The report is divided into two parts. the first part deals with the setting up of the Centre and its activities during the course of 1998. The second part gives an overview with regard to the situation on racism and xenophobia in the Union during 1998. The Centre was established in Vienna in June 1997 under Regulation 1035/97/CE. It is an independent organisation whose basic objective is to provide statistical and analytical information to the Member States on racism and xenophobia within the Union and highlight examples of good practice. It also sets up and co-ordinates RAXEN, the European Information Network on Racism and Xenophobia. The task of RAXEN is to collect and store data which will then be processed and analysed. A total of 262 organisations, composed mainly of non-governmental organisations and research establishments, were nominated. A major task of the Centre is to promote the creation of "Round Tables" at the national level in the Member States. Their objectives include the exchange of information and analysis of the situation and the causes, with specific regard to education and information, and media communication. It is apparent that a great deal of the Centre's time has gone into establishing structures and methodologies which will help fulfil its objectives. The second part of the report provides a general overview. It aims to provide information on the manifestations of racism, the social, political and economic studies being undertaken, and the action being taken by state or civil society to combat racism. The report also outlines cases of good practice in this regard. It

highlights the need for a clear European policy on matters relating to immigration and asylum. Both punitive measures taken by public authorities and preventive measures are discussed. The contribution made by civil society towards fighting racism is seen as both positive and important. The mobilisation of NGOs, labour unions, and specialised institutions is seen as a sign of social health and effectiveness. The threat presented by overtly racist political parties is discussed. Education and public awareness-raising are seen as the primary ways of combating the popularity of these parties and the withdrawal of state funding for some of these parties is noted. A description of the activities undertaken by the European Commission in 1998 to combat racism is given.

European year against racism in 1997: implementation. Report

1999/2205(COS) - 16/03/2000 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament adopted its resolution on countering racism in the EU drafted by Ms. Sarah LUDFORD (ELDR, UK). The resolution urges, among other things: - Member States to be sensitive to the needs of minority communities and encourage their community structures while providing full integration programmes and mainstreaming the needs of ethnic minorities into policy and practice; - EU institutions and governments to provide and disseminate accessible information in minority languages on public services, complaint and redress channels and legal advice services; - the Member States' authorities to strengthen awareness-raising and racial diversity among all sections of the population, and in respect of young people to include as formal requirements of school curricula and teacher training programmes the teaching of Europe in the world (including slavery and colonialism and the history and culture of minority communities) and the dangers of racism, xenophobia and intolerance (including the Shoah and anti-semitism) and the imperative of racial tolerance and the value of diversity; - Member States and local authorities to take action specifically to encourage all ethnic minority voters to register and turn out to vote, and political parties to take positive action to encourage the selection and election of ethnic minority candidates; - Member States to prosecute and punish vigorously the commission of racist crime, racial harrassment and racial attacks; - both business and public sector organisations to recognise the case for race equality on grounds of financial efficiency, as well as moral imperative, and thus to regard European legislation against race discrimination as a positive spur to the adoption of a diversity strategy including setting of targets and positive action for recruitment and promotion; - the EU and Member States to practice an ethical foreign policy by taking all opportunities to tackle poverty and ensure respect for human rights, and sepcifically by tightening the EU Code of Conduct on arms sales; - the EU not to tie bilateral and multilateral agreements with third countries, including Lomé, to demands for the acceptance without question of those deported from the EU. The resolution also calls: - for the forthcoming EU Charter of Fundamental Rights to be more than merely declaratory of existing rights and to enshrine guarantees, including against racial discrimination, which are enforceable in the European Court of Justice; - on media organisations to establish a code of ethics to combat racism and xenophobia and to monitor compliance with it; - for European law to allow, and require, 'contract compliance' whereby external contracts and funding agreements must include an obligation to implement equal opportunities policies; - for early EU legislation to give substance to European citizenship by granting rights to vote in local and European elections to third-country nationals resident in the EU for 5 years or more; - on the Member States and Community institutions to ensure that rules restricting freedom of opinion and expression are not contrary or disproportionate to national, European and international rules on the subject; - on the EU and its Member States to ensure that, within a single asylum system, the Refugees Convention is fully applied and that immigration legislation and policy does not discriminate on grounds of ethnic or national origin, avoids stoking xenophobic attitudes or discriminatory and hostile behaviour to ethnic minorities, and gives similar rights of free movement and family unity to third-country national as to Member State citizens; - in particular, for the promotion of dialogue with Islamic countries which will, inter alia, facilitate the integration of Muslim communities in Europe. In the context of fundamental rights and equality policy, the Parliament insists that the protection of the minority rights of minorities must be ensured within a system of politically devolved government. The EP requests that the European Monitoring Centre shpould have its competences extended to third pillar matters and play a more pro-active role in mainstreaming education and promoting good practice. Lastly, the Parliament calls on the Member States to: - train their police forces and judiciary in awareness of racism and xenophobia, and in international human rights standards, race sensitivity and communication with minorities; - achieve a police force representative of the ethnic balance in society by recruiting an increased number of police from ethnic minority groups; - increase police accountability and provide for independent investigation of complaints of racist ill-treatment or bias; - agree that the Directive under Article 13 implementing race equality should apply to the police, prosecution, judicial and immigration services including the combating of indirect or institutional racism.

European year against racism in 1997: implementation. Report

1999/2205(COS) - 03/06/1999 - Non-legislative basic document

PURPOSE : to present a report on the implementation of the European Year against Racism (1997). CONTENT : In accordance with Article 6 of the Council Resolution announcing the year 1997 as the European Year of Racism (OJ.C 237/96), the Commission presents a report on the Year (refer to procedure CNS/1355/1995). The European Year against Racism clearly illustrated the importance of partnership as a weapon against racism. The focus was on complementarity between the action taken by Member States and that taken at the European level, and close cooperation was initiated to extend this partnership to include all those concerned, notably civil society and the media. At European level, the approach focuses mainly on information campaigns, exchanging experience and supporting cooperation between the various players. The Year created a dynamism, boosted by the fight against racism in Europe, revitalised existing initiatives and gave birth to many others. The information and communication campaign put over a hard hitting message about the danger posed by racism to our societies and focused on certain tried-and-tested solutions, including the portrayal of multicultural societies in a positive light. The Year contributed to a number of major political advances : 1) the insertion into the Treaty of Amsterdam, of a general non-discrimination clause (Article 13) which opened the way to Community action and combat racism at European level; 2) the adoption of the Council Regulation creating the European Monitoring centre on Racism and Xenophobia, charged with following developments in these areas and making recommendations to the European Institutions and Member States; 3) the implementation of a European network of non-governmental organisations active in the fight against racism; 4) the provision of a useful basis for discussion during preparation for the gloal conference on racism to be organised by the UN in 2001; 5) the launch of an action plan against racism, which aims to place the fight against racism at the heart of a number of European policies and it creates a coherent framework for Community action over the medium term. Lastly, this Community action comes under the more general heading of initiatives against discrimination in all its forms, in the context of new provisions in the Treaty and the construction of a Europe of diversity, tolerance and cohesion.