Basic information

1999/2211(COS) COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic)	Procedure completed
Structural Funds. 10th annual report, 1998 **Subject** 4.70.01 Structural funds, investment funds in general, programmes	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
RETT Regional Policy, Transport and Tourism	TURCO Maurizio (TDI)	24/11/1999

Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
ITRE Industry, External Trade, Research, Energy	FLESCH Colette (ELDR)	27/01/2000
EMPL Employment and Social Affairs	NOBILIA Mauro (UEN)	01/02/2000
PECH Fisheries		

Council of the European Union

European Commission

Commission DG	Commissioner
Regional and Urban Policy	

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
15/10/1999	Non-legislative basic document published	COM(1999)0467	Summary
17/12/1999	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
23/05/2000	Vote in committee		Summary
23/05/2000	Committee report tabled for plenary	A5-0138/2000	
15/06/2000	Decision by Parliament	T5-0280/2000	Summary
15/06/2000	Debate in Parliament		

15/06/2000	End of procedure in Parliament		
01/03/2001	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	1999/2211(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/5/12167

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A5-0138/2000 OJ C 067 01.03.2001, p. 0008	23/05/2000	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T5-0280/2000 OJ C 067 01.03.2001, p. 0185-0308	15/06/2000	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Non-legislative basic document	COM(1999)0467	15/10/1999	Summary

Other institutions and bodies

Institution/body	Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
CofR	Committee of the Regions: opinion	CDR0220/1999 OJ C 226 08.08.2000, p. 0068	13/04/2000	

Structural Funds. 10th annual report, 1998

1999/2211(COS) - 15/06/2000 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament adopted a resolution drafted by Maurizio TURCO (TDI, Italy) on the Commission's 10th Annual Report on the structural funds. Parliament declared itself satisfied with the Structural Fund implementation rates in 1998, but noted that efforts were still required, especially in the area of Community Initiatives, to commit all resources by the end of the programming period. It called on the Commission and the Member States to take the necessary steps to avoid a sluggish flow of resources in the initial stages of Structural Fund implementation and thus to ensure that, in the 2000-2006 period, the programme is implemented evenly in each individual year. The report does not contain any indication regarding the average duration of the procedure for the consideration of funding applications by the Commission. Parliament considered it unacceptable that in certain cases relating in particular to the Community Initiatives, the consideration of such applications has taken over a year. On coordination with other Community policies, Parliament believes that there must be a clear link between ESF and other structural fund measures and NAPs in the new programming period. Given the importance of territorial pacts, the Commission needs to ensure that the Parliament is fully informed about the state of the pacts,

especially for employment purposes, and the use of appropriations by the wide range of operators concerned. With regard to the principle of additionality, the Commission is required to find instruments for improving verification and to assess additionality more comprehensively. The Member States are urged to ensure that the additionality principle is strictly upheld. Parliament must be provided as soon as possible with details of checks on full compliance with the principle and also a list of the punitive measures to be imposed in cases where statutory requirements have not been met. With regard to evaluation and control, Parliament regrets that unsuitable and inadequate evaluators have frequently been employed. The Commission is required to strengthen controls over implementation by means of considerably more on-the spot checks and to lay down objective criteria for assessing their quality. Parliament should be informed of all cases of irregularities, and the Commission should ensure that its annual report ncludes a section on the measures which it has adopted in response to criticisms expressed by Parliament in previous years.

Structural Funds. 10th annual report, 1998

1999/2211(COS) - 15/10/1999 - Non-legislative basic document

PURPOSE : Presentation of 10th Annual Report of the Structural Funds 1998. CONTENT : Structural fund activities in the field of economic and social cohesion can be summarised under four main headings: - Adoption of the remaining programmes: 25 new assistance packages were adopted during the year, the majority being global grants under Objective 1. 29 programmes were also adopted under the Community Initiatives, the most significant in financial terms being the Interreg II C programme to combat drought in Spain. The monetary value of these new programmes represents only a tiny share of the total spend of the Fund during 1994-1999. - Acceleration of financial execution: execution of CSFs/SPDs accelerated during the year. By the end of the year, 80% of the total assistance available over the period had been committed and 61% had been paid, in line with the financial perspective for1994-99 Objectives 1 and 3 have the highest implementation rates. The lowest rates were in Objectives 5 (a) and (b) and Objective 4 is considerably behind. As in 1997, The Member States with the best implementation rates in terms of appropriations were the least prosperous and the main beneficiaries of the Funds: Greece, Ireland, Spain and Portugal. The Community Initiatives also saw implementation speeding up. By the end of the year, 72% of assistance had been committed but only 45% of assistance had been paid out. In terms of appropriations, the situation was an improvement on 1997: 93% of commitment appropriations available were committed while 93% of payment appropriations were paid out. - Increased attention to priority themes: safeguarding and promoting employment received special support. The Structural Funds, particularly the ERDF and ESF, will take account of the national action plans put forward by Member States under the European Employment Strategy launched by the Luxembourg European Council. Promoting equality between men and women also received increased support and the Funds have been gradually incorporating this theme. Mid-term impact evaluations under Objectives 1 and 6 were conducted. The Mid-Term Review report adopted in January 1999 confirmed the positive impact of the Funds both in macro-economic terms and in terms of reducing disparities in the areas of transport, telecommunications infrastructure, environment and energy. The report's recommendations gave rise to some adjustments of funding allocations within the programmes and similar adjustments affected the Community Initiatives. The document lists a number of other thematic priorities that were given closer study during the year. - Preparations for the 2000-06 programming period: The General Regulation on Structural Funds, adopted by the Council on 21 June 1999, translates into legislation the policy options set out in Agenda 2000. These include reduction of priority Objectives to three; concentration of assistance to smaller populations and concurrent adoption of transitional support for regions which will cease to be eligible; reduction of the Community Initiatives to three, later widened to four; simplification of programming and clarification of monitoring and evaluation. The Commissionalso drew up guidelines designed to help the national and regional authorities in preparing their development plans under the new Objectives 1, 2 and 3. These are geared to three main goals: improving regional competitiveness; promoting employment; and integrating urban and rural development. In keeping with previous years, the report picks out a theme relevant to all four Structural Funds. For 1998, the theme is local development. The aim is to highlight the Commission's role in mobilising forces to encourage local development and improve the local employment situation.