Basic information

2000/2015(COS) COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic)	Procedure completed
Crossing at external borders of the States, Schengen cooperation. Annual reports 1998 **Subject** 7.10.02 Schengen area, Schengen acquis 7.10.04 External borders crossing and controls, visas	

Key players

European Parliament	**Committee responsible**	**Rapporteur**	**Appointed**
	LIBE Citizens' Freedoms and Rights, Justice and Home Affairs	COELHO Carlos (PPE-DE)	24/02/2000
	Committee for opinion	**Rapporteur for opinion**	**Appointed**
	AFET Foreign Affairs, Human Rights, Common Security, Defense	SÖRENSEN Patsy (V/ALE)	01/02/2000
Council of the European Union			

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
08/09/1999	Non-legislative basic document published	10846/1999	Summary
21/01/2000	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
14/09/2000	Non-legislative basic document published	N5-0729/2000	Summary
20/06/2001	Vote in committee		Summary
20/06/2001	Committee report tabled for plenary	A5-0233/2001	
20/09/2001	Decision by Parliament	T5-0478/2001	Summary
20/09/2001	Debate in Parliament		
20/09/2001	End of procedure in Parliament		
28/03/2002	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2000/2015(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/5/12332

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A5-0233/2001	20/06/2001	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T5-0478/2001 OJ C 077 28.03.2002, p. 0023-0141 E	20/09/2001	Summary

Council of the EU

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Non-legislative basic document	10846/1999	08/09/1999	Summary
Supplementary non-legislative basic document	11329/3/1999	16/11/1999	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Supplementary non-legislative basic document	SEC(2000)1439	14/09/2000	Summary

Other institutions and bodies

Institution/body	Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
OS	Non-legislative basic document	N5-0729/2000	14/09/2000	Summary

Crossing at external borders of the States, Schengen cooperation. Annual reports 1998

2000/2015(COS) - 14/09/2000 - Non-legislative basic document

PURPOSE : to present the Fourth Annual Report on the work of the Schengen Joint Supervisory Authority. CONTENT : the present report is based on the JSA's work over the period from March 1999 to February 2000. In a spirit of transparency and democratic openness, the JSA is anxious to account to as broad a public as possible for its constant effort to uphold the interests of individuals in the protection of their privacy. It shows that the supervisory body forms an indispensible final brick in the Schengen edifice. Both for the SIS security measures and in defending the interests of individual reported, or again fulfilling public information requirements, proposals and suggestions are now once more being put forward, on the basis of reports, recommendations and opinions. The desire to make a constructive contribution to the smooth working of the Schengen machinery, shared by all fellow delegates from national supervisory authorities and observers from the applicant countries, contrasts sharply at times with the unkind way in which the JSA is treated, especially as regards giving proper effect to and providing the necessary resources for its autonomy and strict independence. In addition, the report notes with satisfaction the clear wish of the Council to go on to establish a joint secretariat for all supervisory authorities in the

European Police Sector (Schengen, Europol, the Customs Information System, etc.). This new future structure could provide the necessary resources for its autonomy and strict independence (refer to CNS/2000/804).

Crossing at external borders of the States, Schengen cooperation. Annual reports 1998

2000/2015(COS) - 08/09/1999 - Non-legislative basic document

PURPOSE : The presentation of the 1998 Annual Report on the implementation of the Schengen Convention. CONTENT : The Schengen message is as follows: the abolition of internal border checks to permit the free movement of persons in Europe is justified provided it is accompanied by efficient compensatory measures to safeguard security. 10 Contracting States have brought it into force (but with only partial enforcement in Greece). The report concludes that it is a valuable instrument that has performed a historic service, in contributing decisively to the fact that Europe is perceived as a security community, as well as in achieving free movement. Schengen achievements are not yet complete and can be built upon. The report looks at several areas of operation, including the abolition of internal border checks, the use of the Schengen Information System (SIS), the movement of persons, measures to combat drug trafficking and police and judicial co-operation. Some of the main points are as follows: The operation and use of the SIS were judged to be positive in 1998. There was a marked increase in the number of alerts. Furthermore, a comparison of the number of hits with the number of alerts shows that the efficiency of the SIS in connection with Article 95 of the Convention (arrest for the purpose of extradition) is particularly high. Arrangements were being made for the transfer of the SIS to the European Union, following the entry into force of the Amsterdam Treaty. - Considerable progress was made in the harmonisation of the common visa policy - Drug tourism as a regional problem in the Schengen States is a phenomenon that must be countered with stronger measures, particularly by using proven forms of co-operation and guidelines on the regional routes projects.

Crossing at external borders of the States, Schengen cooperation. Annual reports 1998

2000/2015(COS) - 20/09/2001 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament adopted the resolution by Mr Carlos COELHO (EPP-ED, P) which seeks to ensure that the Schengen Information System and computer systems is operated with due respect for human rights and the principles of the European Charter of Fundamental Rights. The resolution also calls on the UK and Ireland to fully participate in the Schengen system and thus scrap border controls. MEPs want the Schengen Information System to be managed by a separate agency financed by the EU under the responsibilities of the Commission. The Parliament calls for the Schengen rules on confidentiality of documents to be replaced with rules on public access to documents and wishes it to be informed of documents excluded from public access. It urges the Council and the Commission to submit an annual report on the measures adopted in the area of freedom security and justice. In the context of the integration of Article 2, paragraph 2 of the Schengen Convention, the Commission is invited to include in its proposal rules on the prior consultation of the Council, approval of temporary border controls only for a limited period (30 days) and a review of the proportionality of the controls and conditions for the extension of that period. The Parliament calls on the Council: - to ensure that Parliament is able to fully participate in the debate on measures to remedy the shortcomings in the field of police co-operation and requests the Council to ensure consistency in the practical rules to be applied under the Schengen Convention; - to consult the Parliament in sufficient time and with a reasonable deadline on its framework decisions, decisions and Conventions; - to adopt a legally binding instrument on the data protection standards to be applied in the third pillar; - to adopt uniform standards, procedures and powers and a separate budget for the operation of the single supervisory body, under the supervision of the European Parliament, in repsect of its activities pursuant to the three conventions (Schengen, Europol and Customs Use) and to ensure the respect of the data protection standards. The Parliament calls for the Schengen Information System to be managed within the EU Framework by a separate agency, financed from the EU budget, and for the establishment of a Community (Union) information system under the responsibility of the Commission, which would be a single Computer network system for the data received under the three conventions mentioned above. Lastly, the Parliament calls for the membership of the candidate countries to be subject only to the political acceptance of the Schengen acquis and the development of the necessary policy instruments to implement that acquis and as was the case on the occasion of the previous accession, for the lifting of internal borders for the free movement of persons to be the subject of a separate and subsequent decision of the Council, acting on a proposal from the Commission and after consultation of the Parliament.

Crossing at external borders of the States, Schengen cooperation. Annual reports 1998

2000/2015(COS) - 16/11/1999 - Supplementary non-legislative basic document

PURPOSE : To present an annual report on the situation at the External Borders of the States in which the Schengen Convention has been brought into force for the period 1 January 1998 to 31 December 1998. CONTENT : The report states that 1998 was marked by a substantial rise of migratory pressure at land and sea borders. It discusses: - The routes along which illegal immigration was particularly pronounced. - The main migratory flows originate in the Balkans, the entire region inhabited by ethnic Kurds, and the African continent, the main region being North Africa. - The places where migratory flows meet the Schengen external borders and where the focal points emerge. - Amongst the many land borders discussed, the cross-channel link between Belgium and the United Kingdom proved to be a flashpoint. This is the subject of continuing discussion between the authorities. Germany's eastern borders with Poland and the Czech Republic were the main border, which saw a large rise in unauthorised entry. The migratory pressures on airports did not increase significantly. With regard to maritime borders, pressures differ considerably between the northern and the southern external borders of the Schengen area. Spain, Greece and Italy are seeing a strong and continuing flow; The Apulian coast of Italy sees

migration from Albania which is due exclusively to organised criminal gangs specialising in human smuggling. The Sicilian coast mainly involved people from North and Central Africa. It seems that criminal gangs now also run this flow. The measures taken to tackle the phenomenon and their effectiveness: Germany has reported the creation of Joint Smuggling Investigation Group by the Federal Border guard and the police forces of different federal states. German/Polish liaison posts have been set up at two border crossing points. Greece, Spain, Italy and Austria have all taken initiatives to control illegal immigration at land borders. With regard to flights, growing attention is being paid to measures taken in the country of origin, such as pre-boarding checks. On maritime borders, considerable improvement has occurred as a result of increasing financial means for human resources and high technology equipment. The most common problems encountered during border control implementation are discussed in the report. These include the functioning of the Schengen Information System, the issuing of visas in Member States' consulates, and false documents The Report concludes that significant efforts have been made through the increase of human resources and mutual assistance, but that greater co-operation is needed at European level.

Crossing at external borders of the States, Schengen cooperation. Annual reports 1998

2000/2015(COS) - 14/09/2000 - Supplementary non-legislative basic document

This document presents the Commission's opinion on Ireland's request to participate in some of the Schengen Acquis provisions. In accordance with Article 4 of the Schengen Protocol, the two Member States who did not subscribe to the Schengen Acquis at the moment of its signature, could at any time ask to participate in all or part of the provisions of that acquis. It is thus on the 29 May 2000, the Council decided to give authorisation to the United Kingdom to participate in the provisions by its 2000/365/EC Decision. In a letter dated 16 June 2000, the Irish Government put in a similar request in order to participate in the provision of the Schengen Acquis relating in particular to the area of police and judicial cooperation, the fight against drug trafficking, as well as the SIS. Like with the United Kingdom, the Council's status on such a request is on unanimity of the signatory States and from the representative of the Irish Government. This document aims at expressing the Commission's opinion on Ireland's request, as was the case for the United Kingdom (Refer to COS/2000/2098). Overall, the Commission's opinion follows the same criteria as those applicable to the United Kingdom and in particular the guidelines of the Council on the matter. In principle, the Commission's opinion is positive, even if the Commission believes that in the future the cooperation should extend to other aspects of free movement covered by the Schengen Acquis. It considers also that the request from Ireland is an important step in the realisation towards an area of freedom, justice and secuirty. However, the Commission does make a number of recommendations, which, on the whole, are similar to those they expressed in its opinion on the United Kingdom; - the part participation of Ireland in the Schengen acquis must not affect the good functioning of the whole of this acquis for the other Member States; - this part participation should cover elements which can be applied in a coherent manner, without needing to call on other aspects of the Schengen Acquis not covered by this decision. Furthermore, the Commission believes that in principle these two criteria are fulfilled in the case of Ireland. It also makes other remarks : in comparison to the British request, the Irish request does not deal with the Schengen provision concerning cross-border observation (Article 40 and the follow-up from the Schengen Convention). Moreover, as well as the Schengen provisions to which the UK and Ireland shall be authorised to participate in, it shall also apply to the relationships between these two Member States, it is understood that at this stage, one could exclude Ireland from the application of cross-border observation from these reports. In addition, the Commission also believes that when the Council fixes the dates for the implementation of the different provisions of the Schengen Acquis applicable to Ireland, it will be necessary to evaluate the possibility of simultaneous implementation in certain elements of the "Common Travel Area" between these two Member States in order toensure regional coherence in the development of the area of freedom, security and justice. Putting aside these recommendations, the Commission concludes its opinion by requesting that the Council maintain a favourable continuation of the Irish request and to approve a decision which, mutatis mutandis, includes all the important provisions of Decision 2000/365/EC applicable to the United Kingdom.