Basic information

2000/2115(COS) COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic)	Procedure completed
Simpler legislation for the internal market: review of SLIM, 3rd and 4th phases **Subject** 2 Internal market, single market	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
JURI Legal Affairs and Internal Market	DOORN Bert (PPE-DE)	28/03/2000

Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
ECON Economic and Monetary Affairs	BERENGUER FUSTER Luis (PSE)	03/04/2000
ITRE Industry, External Trade, Research, Energy	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
ENVI Environment, Public Health, Consumer Policy	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	

Council of the European Union

Council configuration	Meetings	Date
Competitiveness (Internal Market, Industry, Research and Space)	2248	2000-03-16

European Commission

Commission DG	Commissioner
Financial Stability, Financial Services and Capital Markets Union	

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
28/02/2000	Non-legislative basic document published	COM(2000)0104	Summary
16/03/2000	Debate in Council		

03/05/2000	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
21/11/2000	Vote in committee		Summary
21/11/2000	Committee report tabled for plenary	A5-0351/2000	
15/01/2001	Debate in Parliament		
16/01/2001	Decision by Parliament	T5-0004/2001	Summary
16/01/2001	End of procedure in Parliament		
18/09/2001	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2000/2115(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/5/12580

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A5-0351/2000 OJ C 232 17.08.2001, p. 0007	21/11/2000	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T5-0004/2001 OJ C 262 18.09.2001, p. 0022-0045	16/01/2001	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Document attached to the procedure	COM(1999)0088	25/02/1999	Summary
Document attached to the procedure	COM(2000)0056	04/02/2000	Summary
Non-legislative basic document	COM(2000)0104	28/02/2000	Summary
Document attached to the procedure	SEC(2000)0336	28/02/2000	

Simpler legislation for the internal market: review of SLIM, 3rd and 4th phases

2000/2115(COS) - 16/01/2001 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament adopted the report by Mr Bert DOORN (EPP/ED, NI) on the Commission communication on a review of SLIM. Parliament has essentially rejected the Commission's approach of tabling opinions and rather theoretical proposals for the third and fourth phases of SLIM and urges it to replace these, where appropriate, within a time period of 6 months with specific legislative proposals. If the Commission does this, the Parliament is prepared to deal with proposals swiftly and hopes the Council will follow this example. As regards the substance of the Commission's proposals, Parliament believes they cannot guarantee the efficiency and speed of the SLIM process. It therefore calls on the Commission to ensure that good and effective consultation takes place with users at all stages in the SLIM process; ensure, in consultation with the users, maximum input of practical expertise in the SLIM teams to proceed rapidly, correctly and efficiency. Furthermore, the Parliament calls for more structured cooperation in the field of simplification of legislation and improvements in the quality of legislation between the Commission and the Member States. The publishing of an annual survey of best practices in simplification of legislation and improvement of the quality of legislation in the Member States could help achieve this goal. There should also be greater structural cooperation in the field of enforcement by national, regional or local authorities.

Simpler legislation for the internal market: review of SLIM, 3rd and 4th phases

2000/2115(COS) - 25/02/1999 - Document attached to the procedure

PURPOSE: To summarise the recommendations of the Phase III Single Market Initative (SLIM) teams, which reviewed three sectors: insurance legislation, Social Security co-ordinating rules and the Electro-magnetic Compatibility Directive and the Commission's observations on these recommendations. It also informs the Council and the EP on the progress being made towards the implementation of the SLIM recommendations arising from the two previous phases. CONTENT: The SLIM was launched by the Commission in May 1996 to identify ways in which Single Market (SM) legislation could be simplified. In March 1998, the Commission announced the launch of the third phase of the SLIM. This phase concentrated on three sectors: Insurance, Social Security and the implementation of the Electro-magnetic Compatibilitiy Directive. With regard to Social Security, the SLIM team reported on the scope of co-ordination (personal and material), the determination of applicable legislation and the co-ordination of the various categories of benefits. The Commission accepted the broad thrust of the recommendations. With regard to the Electro-Manetic Compatibility Directive, which came into force on 1 January 1996, the SLIM team recommended that revision should focus on the inclusion of definitions and key concepts incorporated in current Commission guidelines on the application of the Directive in order to provide greater legal security. In addition, a clearer definition of the protection requirements regarding such aspects as emmission and immunity is recommended. The Commission has reviewed the recommendations and endorses the majority of them. With regard to insurance legislation, the SLIM team focuses on the most important aspects of insurance directives. It concluded that nothwithstanding the complexity of current legislation, there is scope for the abolition, amendment or adaptation of existing provisions. The main recommendations concern the codification of directives on life assurance and non-life assurance and directives on compulsory thord party insurance for motor vehicles once the Fourth Motor Insurance Directive has been adopted. The Commission has reviewed the recommendations presented by the SLIM team and can endorse many of them. With regard to the implementation of SLIM Phase I, the interim report states that progress has been achieved towards the implementation of the recommendations of the SLIM teams with respect o four sectors: intrastat, recognition of diplomas, ornamental plants and construction products. Finally, with regard to the implementation of SLIM Phase II, the SLIM concentrated on the following sectors: Value Added Tax, Fertilisers, and the combined Nomenclature for External Trade, Banking Services. The recommendations presetned have been agreed by the Commission and a number of initiatives have been taken to simplify the legislation in question.

Simpler legislation for the internal market: review of SLIM, 3rd and 4th phases

2000/2115(COS) - 04/02/2000 - Document attached to the procedure

In October 1998, the Commission announced the launch of the fourth phase of SLIM. This phase concentrated on three legislative areas: company law, the Dangerous Substances Directive and Directives on Pre-packaged products. These sectors were selected following consultations with Members States, the European Parliament, the Economic and Social Committee and representatives of business and industry. - Company law: The SLIM Team has proposed a series of far reaching proposals covering two major areas of company law. These recommendations address the need for the introduction of a modernised and Europe-wide company law registration system which could provide easier, less costly and greater access to company documents thus ensuring better legal protection and facilitating cross border establishment. Taken together, these recommendations represent an opportunity to bring about significant simplification and modernisation and a reduction in costs and procedures while at the same time safeguarding the interests of shareholders and creditors. The Commission has indicated its broad agreement with all the recommendations presented while in some cases reserving the right to undertake further research, consultation and analysis prior to committing itself to presenting proposals to modify the two directives. - Dangerous Substances Directive: the SLIM team presented some 48 recommendations which address, amongst other matters: the structure of the Directive, the classification of substances, the notification of new substances and compliance with its provisions. The recommendations also constitute a substantial input into the current review of chemical policy. The Commission will consider specific legislative proposals in the context of this wider review. - Pre-packaging legislation: the report of the team provides a useful overview of the difficulties encountered in applying current legislation and identifies those areas in need of clarification and improvement. The Commission will propose necessary measures after consultation.

Simpler legislation for the internal market: review of SLIM, 3rd and 4th phases

2000/2115(COS) - 28/02/2000 - Non-legislative basic document

PURPOSE: To review and evaluate the effectiveness of the Simpler Legislation for the Internal Market (SLIM) initiative as an instrument for achieving legislative simplificaiton and recommend action to improve its effectiveness. CONTENT: The review focuses on the following areas: 1) The objective of the SLIM : The broad objective is to streamline the operation of the Internal Market by identifying ways in which relevant legislation can be simplified and improved. The Commission will draw up a clear definition of the overall objectives of SLIM to be incorporated into a new set of guidelines. In addition, it will set out clearly the mandate of each individual team in the Working Document to launch the relevant SLIM phase. 2) The selection of legislation for review under SLIM Areas of legislation for examination by each team are currently identified on the basis of suggestions from Member states, the EP, the EcoSoc, and trade/business organisations and the services of the Commission. The "age" of the legislation to be simplified is also a relevant factor. Legislation which has been submitted to SLIM teams is usually at least 5 years old and often the basis legislation has been in existence for 10 or 20 years or even longer. The Commission rejected SLIM scrutiny where legislation was too recent. The Commission acknowledges the need to improve the selection process. However, in kepeing with its right of initiative, the Commission will make the final selection on its own responsibility. It invites suggestions for action provided they are accompanied by a statement of the reason for proposing particular sectors, the key problems which arise and the expected benefits of simplification. For its part, the Commission will indicate the reasons for rejecting certain proposals and will discuss the selection of sectors for review with Member states in a special formation of the Internal Market Advisory Committee. The Commission will also discuss future actions with the EP, with whom it will seek to agree appropriate arangements for consultation. 3) The operation and management of teams Although the autonomous working methods of SLIM teams allow them to work with speed and flexibility, a number of Member states have stressed the need to create some type of advisory committee which could follow and help guide work of teams. The Commission emphasises the advantages of the autonomous and informal working methods of SLIM teams but will convene a subgroup of Internal Market Advisory Committee (IMAC) for the purposes of SLIM and related regulatory quality matters. This procedural proposal must not generate undue delays in the start up or conclusion of SLIM exercises. The Commission does not wish fundamentally to alter the nature of SLIM teams by including representatives of all the Member states in each SLIM team. This would result in a significant increase in their size, thereby losing the advantages of flexibility and informality. The Commission proposes to increase transparency and enhanced interaction with relevant sectoral committees and the proposed Internal Market Advisory subcommittee, which will be convened at the begining and end of each phase, before formal adoption of the teams report. However, this must notcompromise the independence of the individual teams (which will present their reports on their own responsibility) nor the right of the Commission to decide on its own response. The Commission will publish a yearly working document which focuses exclusively on the follow-up to SLIM reports, tracks the progress of legislative proposals, highlights where delays are occuring and indicates when the follow-up action has been completed. This will provide the opportunity to give clear and detailed information on follow-up while allowing the reports on each individual future SLIM phase to be more succinct. 4) The implementation and recommendations The Commission will propose a SLIM exercise only when simplification is the real issue and where simplification can be put forward within a reasonable time (about 6 months after the SLIM report). This may depend on whether SLIM feeds into a pre-existing review process or is the first step following which further consultation must take place. When legislative proposals have been made within a reasonable time by the Commission following preparatory work with the Member states, this should be matched by their speedy adoption by the Council and the EP. It is proposed that the 5 Member states whose officials participate in a SLIM team dealing with a particular actor should provide a report on the scope for simplifying national legislation in the same sector. This report could be presented by the Member states representatives on the proposed special format of IMAC. Ideally, at least one such national report per sector would be prepared by means of a parallel SLIM-type exercise organised at national level by the Member state. In addition, Member states should report regularly in IMAC, and from time to time at Council level, on their independent programmes of regulatory simplification.