Basic information

2000/2133(COS) COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic) Research actions for agriculture and fishery, FAIR. Special report 9 /1999, Court of Auditors **Subject** 3.10 Agriculture and economies 3.15 Fisheries policy 8.40.05 Court of Auditors	Procedure completed

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
CONT Budgetary Control	LANGENHAGEN Brigitte (PPE-DE)	19/04/2000

Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
ITRE Industry, External Trade, Research, Energy	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	22/06/2000
AGRI Agriculture and Rural Development	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
PECH Fisheries	BUSK Niels (ELDR)	27/06/2000

Council of the European Union

Council configuration	Meetings	Date
Economic and Financial Affairs ECOFIN	2297	2000-10-17

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
04/01/2000	Non-legislative basic document published	RCC0009/1999	Summary
13/06/2000	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
11/10/2000	Vote in committee		Summary
11/10/2000	Committee report tabled for plenary	A5-0310/2000	
17/10/2000	Resolution/conclusions adopted by Council		

13/11/2000	Debate in Parliament		
14/11/2000	Decision by Parliament	T5-0500/2000	Summary
14/11/2000	End of procedure in Parliament		
08/08/2001	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2000/2133(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	CONT/5/12539

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A5-0310/2000 OJ C 223 08.08.2001, p. 0005	11/10/2000	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T5-0500/2000 OJ C 223 08.08.2001, p. 0022-0097	14/11/2000	Summary

Other institutions and bodies

Institution/body	Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
CofA	Non-legislative basic document	RCC0009/1999 OJ C 092 30.03.2000, p. 0001	04/01/2000	Summary

Research actions for agriculture and fishery, FAIR. Special report 9/1999, Court of Auditors

2000/2133(COS) - 14/11/2000 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

In this resolution, drafted by Mrs Brigitte LANGENHAGEN (EPP/ED, D), the House is still expressing its concern over irregularities uncovered by the Court of Auditors in the application of the FAIR programme which covers research activities in the field of agriculture and fisheries. (Refer to the previous document which outlines amendments tabled by the committee responsible). It should be reinforced that the Parliament urges the Commission to ensure that the monitoring exercise by independent external experts will be replaced by better controls (internal and/or external) and adequately followed by reactions improving the financial management of FAIR. COS002133 14/11/00 APE EN In this resolution, drafted by Mrs Brigitte LANGENHAGEN (EPP/ED, D), the House is still expressing its concern over irregularities uncovered by the Court of Auditors in the application of the FAIR programme which covers research activities in the field of agriculture and fisheries. (Refer to the previous document which outlines amendments tabled by the committee responsible). It should be reinforced that the Parliament urges the Commission to ensure that the monitoring exercise by independent external experts will be replaced by better controls (internal and/or external) and adequately followed by reactions improving the financial management of FAIR.

Research actions for agriculture and fishery, FAIR. Special report 9/1999, Court of Auditors

2000/2133(COS) - 04/01/2000 - Non-legislative basic document

PURPOSE: presentation of the European Court of Auditors' Special Report No 9/99 concerning research activities in the field of agriculture and fisheries FAIR programme. CONTENT: The fourth framework programme, which was adopted for the 1994-1998 period with a total of 11 879 Mio ECU, comprises four main measures. Community research activities in the field of agriculture and fisheries come mainly under the first of these measures and receive a total budget of 739,5 Mio ECU. They are intended to improve production, promote the development of modern agricultural holdings and render agriculture and forestry less intensive, more environment-friendly and more compliant with end-users' demands for quality and safety. The Court's audit was focused on examining the procedures for managing and monitoring these activities. As the audit was focused more particularly on the FAIR specific Community research programme, attention was paid to analysing the rules, procedures and methods implemented by the Commission, both within the Directorates-General managing the programme and on the basis of a sample of beneficiaries and/or research contracts. The structure and the management methods of the FAIR specific research programme have not been sufficiently adapted. The fact that there are no quantified objectives also makes it difficult to measure results. Certain rules for implementing the programme were not applied correctly as a result of insufficient detail: for example, the use of selection criteria that favoured the compliance of projects with Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) objectives or the application of the principle that financing should decrease in proportion to the proximity of the market. The procedures for selecting projects were inadequate and, in some cases, poorly applied. As for final evaluation, the obligations resulting from the four previous specific programmes were not fulfilled. The Commission's management tools do not enable the complementarity of the programme's projects with those financed by other Community instruments or forms of intervention to be assessed. The respective responsibilities of the three Directorates-General which co-manage the programme were not formalised, resulting in a lack of clarity and homogeneity. The fact that separate computer applications were developed hindered the coordinated management of the activities and the effective exploitation and dissemination of the information available. Cases where the regulatory or contractual provisions had not been adhered to, and weaknesses in the implementation of the procedures for managing, monitoring and controlling the projects were detected. The standard contract for research projects contains defects: no provision for the joint and binding financial liability of the contracting parties; inadequacy of the obligations regarding the justification of the expenditure declared and the over-restrictive nature of the conditions for imposing penalties. The Court issued a series of recommendations: - The act of making extra resources available for the FAIR specific programme would have been more effective had it been accompanied by a suitable structure and appropriate management methods. Efforts should be made to develop indicators and to meetobligations regarding the final assessment of previous programmes. - There should be an increase in the coordination of the programme's measures with Community policies to ensure the complementarity of the efforts made and to obviate redundant work. - The homogeneity of the procedures and the overall consistency of the programme's measures would be improved by a better definition of the role of project leader and the use of joint computerised management tools. The selection of measures would be better understood by the beneficiaries if the key procedures for implementing the programme were specified and clarified prior to its implementation. - Lastly, provisions applicable to the entire framework research programme should be defined in order to guarantee the quality and independence of expert assessors and improve the justification of the results of selections. The legal and technical quality of contracts is unsatisfactory and should be improved.