Basic information

2000/2514(RSP) RSP - Resolutions on topical subjects	Procedure completed
Resolution on the Commission's 5-year strategic programme **Subject** 8 State and evolution of the Union 8.20.04 Pre-accession and partnership 8.40.03 European Commission	

Key players

European Commission	Commission DG	Commissioner
	Secretariat-General	

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
17/02/2000	Decision by Parliament	T5-0062/2000	Summary
17/02/2000	End of procedure in Parliament		
29/11/2000	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2000/2514(RSP)
Procedure type	RSP - Resolutions on topical subjects
Procedure subtype	Resolution on statement
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 136-p2
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Motion for a resolution		B5-0143/2000	15/02/2000	
Motion for a resolution		B5-0144/2000	15/02/2000	
Motion for a resolution		B5-0145/2000	15/02/2000	
Text adopted by Parliament, topical subjects		T5-0062/2000 OJ C 339 29.11.2000, p. 0164-0255	17/02/2000	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
For information	COM(2000)0154 OJ C 081 21.03.2000, p. 0001	09/02/2000	Summary
Follow-up document	COM(2002)0427	28/08/2002	
Follow-up document	COM(2003)0083	05/03/2003	Summary
Follow-up document	COM(2004)0133	25/02/2004	Summary

Other institutions and bodies

Institution/body	Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
EESC	Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report	CES1227/2000 OJ C 014 16.01.2001, p. 0133	19/10/2000	
CofR	Committee of the Regions: opinion	CDR0182/2000 OJ C 144 16.05.2001, p. 0001	14/12/2000	

Resolution on the Commission's 5-year strategic programme

2000/2514(RSP) - 17/02/2000 - Text adopted by Parliament, topical subjects

The Parliament welcomes the strategic objectives set forth in the Commission's communication. It considers that this maiden global statement of the Commission's medium term vision, priorities and intentions represents an important step forward in the democratic accountability of the Commission to the people of Europe. It believes that these objectives need to be developed through setting priorities, timetables and benchmarks. It shares the Commission's analysis of the four main challenges facing the Union, but reminds the Commission that its first duty is to fulfil the expectations of Europe's citizens; it underlines, therefore, the special importance of economic, social, environmental and consumer protection issues and the over-riding significance of making a success of EU enlargement. It recognises, in addition to the need for political and financial programmes for the candidate countries, that special attention must be paid to the countries of South Eastern Europe, including those for which membership is not imminent. With respect to the promotion of new forms of governance, the Parliament, among other things, strongly endorses internal reform of the EU institutions as being essential to improve their efficiency, openness and transparency, but insists that the Commission, while becoming more transparent and focusing on core issues, must remain fully involved in the implementation and follow-up of EU policies. It also insists that a Charter of Fundamental Rights focusing on the relationship between citizens and the EU institutions must become an integral part of the new Treaty. In the light of the Treaties, the Parliament insists on a clear demonstration to citizens of the added value and efficiency of Union action in the establishment of core Commission objectives and activities and in this regard calls on the Commission to identify the policies and programmes which should be subject to review and possible repeal. The Parliament insists on the development of an area of justice including a common asylum and immigration policy and urges the Commission to present the 'scoreboard' with priorities, firm deadlines and the financial and human resources necessary for this task. It calls on the Commission, in view of the renewed threat of racism and intolerance, to strengthen its commitment to guaranteeing equal rights, equal opportunities and the protection of minorities throughout the Union, in order to ensure that all Europeans share in the benefits of growing prosperity, security and solidarity, which would sustain and support the development of a multi-ethnic, muti-cultural and diverse Europe. In relation to fostering effective cooperation with our immediate neighbours, it also calls on the Commission for a specific focus on strengthening the conflict-prevention capacities of the EU. It considers that the reform of the Common Fisheries Policy due to take place in 2002 should be mentioned in the 5 year working programme of the Commission. Parliament insists on the completion of the single market through the elaboration of a European framework for e-commerce, an efficient implementation of the publicprocurement directives, the creation of more efficient public utilities and a single European company statute, with particular reference to SMEs; this also requires additional objectives for the new economic and social agenda, including the improvement of the working environment, basic social protection, gender mainstreaming and economic and social cohesion.

Resolution on the Commission's 5-year strategic programme

2000/2514(RSP) - 25/02/2004 - Follow-up document

The Annual Policy Strategy constitutes the first stage of the Commission's annual policy cycle. For 2005, the following objectives will be pursued: - establish the policy priorities for 2005; - identify the initiatives that will help to realise these priorities; - adopt the budgetary framework and guidelines, so that the priority initiatives receive the necessary resources, and for the purpose of financial programming. The document examines the EU's situation in 2005, pointing out that it will be the first year of the new Commission, and a key year for carrying through all of the measures connected with the future financial perspective, including the legislative proposals relating to the next generation of Structural Funds. Beyond the policy priorities, there is one fundamental operational priority for the Commission: ensure the success of enlargement and shape the future of Europe. In this connection, the allocation of additional human resources until 2008 will be crucial in enabling the Commission to meet its institutional responsibilities. Besides this operational priority, the Commission has identified the policy priorities for 2005, tying in with the objectives set in previous years: - the Commission's central objective will be to provide a new momentum of economic growth, based on enhanced competitiveness and cohesion; - the objective of stability and security will be maintained; - the Union will take on a new external responsibility, with emphasis on the neighbourhood dimension. Competitiveness and Cohesion: an upturn in growth will be the central policy objective of the Commission. Particular emphasis should be placed on: - industrial policy, whether in terms of the manufacturing or services industry. Services now account for two-thirds of GDP and the majority of jobs created in the Union; they constitute the sector where the scope for higher productivity and further job creation is greatest and help to maintain a solid industrial base; - reducing the persistent gap between Europe and its main partners in terms of the effort put into research and the development of human and technological capital (including information and communication technologies, information society, lifelong learning and Erasmus Mundus); - reinforcement of consumers' confidence in the field of cross-border transactions and electronic trade; - reducing disparities within the enlarged Union. The document goes on to describe the key initiatives which have been selected. Security and European Citizenship: the EU must manage a land border of 6 000 km and a sea border of 85 000 km. The total of third-country nationals living in the EU exceeds 14 million, while around 1.5 million are arriving each year. Moreover, enlargement will accentuate the diversity of cultures and peoples, and will present a new challenge in the form of European citizenship as a new EU dimension. In this field, the Commission has taken steps to create a European area of freedom, security and justice in accordance with the instructions given by theTampere European Council in October 1999. This strategy will enter a second phase in 2005. The Commission proposes selected initiatives in this area. External responsibility: Neighbourhood and Partnership: the Commission will implement a new EU neighbourhood policy, aimed at neighbouring States, which are not (with the exception of Western Balkan countries) candidates for EU accession. As far as the countries of the Western Balkans are concerned, the stabilisation and association process will remain the policy cornerstone. In addition, and in the light of decisions taken in 2004, the Commission will continue implementing the pre-accession strategy with Turkey and might enter into an active phase of negotiation with Croatia. Here again, selected initiatives are listed. The document goes on to discuss the selection of initiatives for extended impact assessment as well as the general framework for human and financial resources for 2005. With regard to the latter, the Commission estimated that extending its work to the new Member States would, once the whole operation was fully up and running (in 2008), imperatively require the recruitment of 3 900 additional members of staff. In the context of the APS 2005 exercise, the Commission intends to make it clear that this request for 3 900 persons is crucial for the functioning of the enlarged Union. In this respect the Commission acknowledges the fact that the Budgetary Authority has met its requests up to now. Nonetheless, the Commission underlines the importance of the outstanding requests for posts up to 2008 and asks the Budgetary Authority to endorse this pledge in order to enable the Commission to fulfil its institutional responsibilities in the context of enlargement. This increase ought to occur between 2004 and 2008 in line with the financial perspective adjustments for an enlarged Community. However, in the light of the current budgetary constraints, the request in 2005 is for a limited net increase of 700 posts related to the Union's enlargement. The recruitment of 700 people constitutes, for 2005, the indispensable basis for carrying forward the management and supervision of Community programmes, and for implementing the acquis communautaire within the enlarged Union. The slower, more gradual build-up of these new human resources, linked to the fact that almost half of them will be dedicated to the language services, will negatively impact on the Commission capacity to meet its institutional obligations. The Commission discusses the financial resources available, and makes observations on each heading of the financial perspective. The application of deflators to translate the 1999 prices to current prices has left a substantial reduction in the ceilings of the various headings of the financial perspective. This is a particular problem for headings 3, 4 and 5. Such decreases in the ceilings have resulted in a very challenging situation in which it has proven necessary to implement reductions in a number of programmed amounts, in order to finance important initiatives, while at the same time leaving a sufficient margin under the heading 3, as required by the IIA. Expenditure allocated within heading 3 "Internal policies" leaves a margin under the ceiling of EUR 54 million. As far as category 4 "External actions" is concerned, the challenging situation is rendered more complex by the financingneeds of the EU's continued participation in the reconstruction of Iraq (EUR 200 million earmarked for 2005). It is clear that only a part of this new expenditure can be financed within the expenditure ceiling. The Commission will therefore propose that the remaining needs be financed by making use of the flexibility instrument, as provided for by point 24 of the IIA. Expenditure under this heading leaves a margin under the ceiling of EUR 108 million. The Commission goes on to discuss the changes in financial resources in comparison with EU-25 financial programming relating to the three priorities listed above (FP headings 3 and 4): Competitiveness and cohesion: indicative change in financial resources - 2005: EUR 5 million; 2006: EUR 18.7 million. Security and citizenship: indicative change in financial resources - 2005: EUR 28.1 million; 2006: EUR 14.1 million External responsibility: Indicative change in 2005 - EUR 200 million.

Resolution on the Commission's 5-year strategic programme

2000/2514(RSP) - 05/03/2003 - Follow-up document

The Annual Policy Strategy adopted by the Commission is the first step in the strategic planning and programming cycle introduced in 2001. It seeks to define the Commission's policy priorities and ensure that there is the right match between policy initiatives and the corresponding resources to deliver the priorities identified for 2004. The central political priority is the start of the enlarged Union's work. The two connected priorities are stability and sustainable growth. All three priorities provide continuity with the Commission's priorities for 2003. The annual policy strategy is part of the wider programming cycle, which sets out political priorities, gives orientations on resource allocations for 2004 and provides the framework for the preparation of the 2004 preliminary draft budget for 25 Member States and the Commission's work program. For the central "accession" priority, the additional financial resources are intended to finance the extension of existing programs to the enlarged Union. The funds are also intended to finance specific transitory measures under the Internal policies decided at the Copenhagen European Council: the Schengen evaluation mechanism, support for nuclear safety in the new member states, and continued support to reinforce their administrative and institutional capacity. It will also mean increasing funding for Turkey, Romania and Bulgaria over the period 2004-2006. The Annual Policy Strategy identifies the need for 1500 posts within the Commission to support enlargement. 780 posts are requested from the Budgetary Authority for 2004. 500 auxiliary posts were granted as a front-loading by the Budgetary Authority to support preparations in 2003. In addition, the Commission has re-allocated internally nearly 250 posts to support

accession preparations. Services most in need of reinforcement in 2004 include regional policy, transport and energy, justice and home affairs and the linguistic services. The priority "stability" has an internal and an external aspect. The Commission proposes an additional allocation of EUR 175.0 million. Within the EU it will place an emphasis on improved border control and establish an integrated IT system on visa information and will develop a policy of security of communication networks. It also includes activities such as fight against bio-terrorism. Stability outside the Union will be supported with an increase in the support to the Western Balkans and Mediterranean region, while at the same time enhancing the European initiative for democracy and human rights and providing more assistance through humanitarian aid to the regions in the world where stability is endangered by humanitarian crises. As far as the priority "sustainable growth" is concerned, an additional EUR 45.7 million is intended to enhance the capacity to respond to oil pollution disasters in the Union. This increase also covers implementation of the EU action plan on communicable diseases and financing of contributions to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Malaria and Tuberculosis at the level discussed with Council and the European Parliament. Adequate funding for EU action on reproductive health and rights in developing countries is also secured. A number of other actions are reinforced notably in the areas ofenvironment, such as the protection of tropical forests in the developing countries, the new chemicals strategy, social affairs and energy. Actions that do not require additional funding include, amongst others, improved economic and budgetary co-ordination between Member States. The Commission will meet the human resources needs of its priorities on stability and sustainable growth through internal redeployment. Almost 140 posts are to be re-allocated within the Commission in this way. In total the 2004 budget in commitment appropriations could equal around EUR 111 000 million,. Of this, some EUR 11 000 million is dedicated to enlargement.

Resolution on the Commission's 5-year strategic programme

2000/2514(RSP) - 09/02/2000 - For information

PURPOSE: to communicate to the European Parliament, the Council, the Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions the Commission's strategic objectives for the period 2000 to 2005. CONTENT: this communication lays down the 4 main strategic objectives highlighted by the Prodi Commission for the next 5 years. Several milestones along this road are already in place. The Inter-Governmental Conference is due for completion by the end of this year. Euro notes and coins are to be introduced in January 2002, and the Union will be in a position to welcome new members by the end of that year. Elections to the European Parliament will be held in June 2004. Preparing for enlargement and its consequences will also lay the foundations for a revision of the European Union's financial perspectives in 2006 at the latest. According to the Commission, the next decade will give shape to a new political Europe in which the main topics for discussion will be : - to achieve full economic co-operation ; - to establish an area of freedom, security and justice ; - to develop common foreign, security and defence policies ; - to promote (through shared policies and institutions) shared values of liberty, peace and stability, democracy, human rights, tolerance, gender,equality, solidarity and non-discrimination ; - the importance of a European Charter of Fundamental Human Rights. Only a Europe which shares fundamental values and political objectives, and which can pursue them effectively, will be able to meet the huge challenge of the new millennium. In addition, political integration must be pursued taking full account of our national and regional identities, cultures and traditions. In order to make this possible, the Commission intends to go further to find a new synergy between all the European Union's democratic bodies, as part of a broader improvement of European governance. The Commission wants to strike a new balance between action by the Commission, the other institutions, the Member States and civil society in order to bring Europe much closer to the people it exists to serve. Furthermore, the Commission wants to reinforce that Europe can show genuine leadership on the world stage and that it shall be able to heed the warnings off globalisation, not least from those who feel disenfranchised from it. It aims to create a new kind of global governance to manage the global economy and environment. On the political front, an overriding priority of this Commission will be to advance the process of enlargement so as to stabilise our continent and secure peace, democracy and respect for human rights throughout Europe. Bosnia and Kosovo, so close to our borders, reveal how essential this is. The Commission aims to achieve this stability not only by enlarging the Union but also by building a co-ordinated foreign and security policy anddeveloping a coherent policy of co-operation with our neighbours. More importantly, enlargement means reforming the European institutions and treaties a task to be undertaken this year by the Inter-Governmental Conference. On the economic and social front, the Commission's priority is to tackle unemployment. This means taking advantage of economic upturn to implement structural reforms, to make European research more efficient, to modernise the working environment, to promote investment in modern infrastructure and to create a well-trained and digitally-literate workforce whose ideas reach the market place quickly. The goal must be long-term growth and competitiveness. In addition, the Union must also respond to people who are increasing looking to Europe for action to improve their environment, their safety and quality of life. Therefore, the Commission will pursue 4 strategic objectives in the 5 years ahead. These 4 objectives are: - promoting new forms of European governance : this means giving people a greater say in the way Europe is run ; - - making the institutions work more effectively and transparently, notably by reforming the Commission and setting an example for other bodies ; - adapting the institutions to the needs of enlargement ; - building new forms of partnership between the different levels of governance in Europe ; - and ensuring an active and distinctive European contribution to the development of global governance. Furthermore, Governments and Parliaments, regional and local authorities are an integral part of European governance. They all have a responsibility in shaping, implementing and presenting policy; a stable Europe with a stronger voice in the world : as a top priority the Commission will work to make a success of enlargement, and to build a real policy of co-operation with our new neighbours. It also aims at closer co-operation between European institutions and amongst the Member States and at enabling Europe to take lead in building the new global economy. Globalisation opens up new prospects for trade, investment and technological development. However, the globalisation process must be made compatible with the common interest of society; a new economic and social agenda : this means modernising our economy for the digital age in a manner which promotes employment and sustainable development, whilst re-modelling our systems of social protection in order to build a fair and caring society. The aim for full employment is a very important objective of economic and social policy as it is the main source of poverty and social exclusion. Moreover, energy will be an essential factor for Europe's competitiveness and economic development, there will also be the debate on the creation of the much needed European Research Area; a better quality of life : here the Commission must provide effective answers to the issues which affect thedaily lives of the EU's citizens, notably the environment, food safety, consumer rights, transport, justice and security against crime. The Commission is ready for action, and it is willing to be judged on its performance over the next five years, in particular its success in implementing the priorities set out in this programme. The Commission will: - make a success of internal reforms, placing greater emphasis on core tasks; - vigorously conduct the enlargement negotiations and help develop effective co-operation our immediate neighbours; - work to ensure, through the launching of a comprehensive Millennium Round, that the forces of globalisation are harnessed to the needs of the world and that sustainability is secures; - help make Europe a better and safer place to live by taking action on the environment, and by implementing the Tampere agenda and the measures set out in the Food Safety White Paper; - play a leading role in the debate over how an enlarged Europe should be governed so as to reconcile diversity and decentralisation with the need for strong institutions and co-ordinated action.