Basic information

2000/2515(RSP) RSP - Resolutions on topical subjects	Procedure completed
Resolution on the Commission's annual legislative programme for 2000 **Subject** 8.40.03 European Commission	

Key players

European Commission	Commission DG	Commissioner
	Secretariat-General	

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
16/03/2000	Decision by Parliament	T5-0106/2000	Summary
16/03/2000	End of procedure in Parliament		
29/12/2000	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2000/2515(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		B5-0228/2000	14/03/2000	
Motion for a resolution		B5-0229/2000	14/03/2000	
Motion for a resolution		B5-0230/2000	14/03/2000	
Text adopted by Parliament, topical subjects		T5-0106/2000 OJ C 377 29.12.2000, p. 0169-0323	16/03/2000	Summary

Council of the EU

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
For information	08447/1/2000	22/05/2000	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
For information	COM(2000)0155 OJ C 081 21.03.2000, p. 0009	09/02/2000	Summary

Resolution on the Commission's annual legislative programme for 2000

2000/2515(RSP) - 16/03/2000 - Text adopted by Parliament, topical subjects

The Parliament generally welcomes the Commission's work programme. It encourages the Commission to pursue its efforts to improve the legislative planning process and asks it to include in the annual work programme, for the sake of comprehensiveness and efficiency, all the proposals and actions proposed, the legislative proposals under way and the report on the implementation of the Commission programme for the previous year. It calls on the Commission to use its right of initiative not only to propose new initiatives but also to revitalise the legislative proposals pending before the Council and to keep Parliament informed of the reason for the impasse in each case. Parliament asks the Commission to review and identify non-military crisis-response tools such as humanitarian aid, monitoring of the democratic process, electoral follow-up, institution rehabilitation and public security, and to establish effective mechanisms for rapid coordination and deployment, bearing in mind the need to adapt decision-making processes, especially those involving financial decisions. It urges the Commission to prepare the creation of a special budget fund for civil crises intervention and to present a plan ensuring that sufficient amounts are available in future EU budgets to respond to civil crisis situations. It also urges the Commission to begin a comprehensive debate on the restructuring of the external representation of the EU which should respond efficiently to the needs of a future European foreign policy. In respect to enlargement, the Parliament demands to be informed regularly by the Commission of progress in negotiations for the accession of the twelve applicant countries. It calls on the Commission to develop a strategy which seeks to engender stability and development in countries which adjoin the enlarged EU, and, in particular, for cooperation with Russia, Ukraine, Moldova and Belarus and those of the Caucasus to be stepped up. With regard to economic and social cohesion, the Parliament insists on improved monitoring and coordination of economic and monetary policies and regrets, in this connection, that no new initiative has been proposed in the economic and financial sector. The Parliament urges a revision of the Directive on collective redundancies, which needs to be strengthened and instrumented by possible sanctions against companies infringing the Directive. The Commission is called upon to take all measures required to ensure that the principle of additionality is fully respected in the current programming and implementation process under the Structural Funds. It should also take a legislative initiative in order to implement the Treaty provisions relating to services of general economic interest. With regard to the single market, the Parliament considers that greater harmonisation of civil law has become essential and calls on the Commission to draw up a study in this area. It demands the rapid introduction of measures to counter piracy and counterfeiting in the internal market with a view to encouraging innovation, especially in the small business sector, and reminds the Commission that a European patentwhich is cheap and rapidly effective is still a matter of the utmost urgency. It insists that work on the simplification of the VAT system and its straightforward application to e-commerce should be speeded up. It invites the Commission to envisage new legislative initiatives with a view to combating harmful tax competition between Member States. In the area of agriculture, the EP asks the Commission to present without delay proposals aimed at simplifying Community legislation and implementation provisions within the CAP, in order to guarantee transparency and efficiency. It insists that financial obligations entered into by the EU under the CAP must be met in full and asks for solutions to be found to specific sectoral problems arising from the application of CAP; it urges the Commission to reconsider its intention of reducing expenditure under heading 1 by EUR 300 million. It welcomes the intention of the Commission to integrate environmental considerations more firmly into the CAP and calls upon the Commission to present specific legislative proposals to achieve this aim in the common agriculture and fisheries policies, including clear provisions for the precautionary principle. With respect to fisheries policy, it calls on the Commission to pat particular attention to preserving direct and indirect employment and to improving working conditions in that sector. As regards the integration of environmental considerations in other sectors and policies, the EP calls on the Commission to be particularly vigilant with regard to Structural Fund projects, enlargement and trade. It asks the Commission to include in its programme proposals dealing with: - establishing maximum limits in respect of the flexibility mechanism provided for in the Kyoto Protocol (including the trading of contamination licences), - soil contamination, - the transfer of the responsibility for supervising common legal standards (inspections) to the European Environment Agency, - amendment of Directive 98/70/EC on fuel quality, with a view to reducing sulphur content to 10ppm per litre, - prevention and repair of damage to the environment (replacing the proposed White Paper on civil liability in environmental protection), - noise policies, - waste from electrical and electronic equipment, - process for evaluating and modifying the common list of substances annexed to Directive 91/414/EEC on pesticides, - detailed review of Directive 92/43/EEC (Fauna, Flora & Habitat) on the conservation of wild flora and fauna, in the light of its application in the Member States. In relation to the programmes set out in the areas of food safety and public health, the Parliament emphasises the need for quality over quantity and reminds the Commission that problems still remain in implementing and monitoring existing legislation. It also calls for the continuation of the existing moratorium on new GMO releases in the context of the full application of the precautionary principle. In the field of energy, it calls on the Commission for clearer signs of a shift in its energy policy towards the promotion of renewable energies, including market penetration and easiernetwork access. The European Parliament calls on the Commission to improve the

planning of European Justice and Home Affairs policies by means of close cooperation with the Parliament at a very early stage in order to avoid hasty decision-making as well as loss of credibility of the EU institutions in this field, and to ensure that, in future, the decision-making process allows for thorough scrutiny of policies and their impact. The Parliament emphasises that the Commission's programme does not make any explicit reference to the creation of a European educational and cultural area. On the internal reform of the EU institutions, the Parliament believes that the reform must meet severak conditions: - contribute towards enhancing transparency of political responsibilities at European level, especially for the general public, - it should not be misused as an excuse for political inactivity in certain areas nor as a pretext for avoiding difficult policy issues, - it needs to be developed in close consultation with the EP.

Resolution on the Commission's annual legislative programme for 2000

2000/2515(RSP) - 22/05/2000 - For information

This document sets out the Council Declaration on the Commission's programme for 2000 which was discussed at meetings on 2,10 and 12 May 2000 by the Working Party on General Affairs. This document outlines what was endorsed by the Council. The priorities for the year 2000 are set out below: - the Intergovernmental Conference (IGC) will amend the structures and functioning of the Union with a view to its enlargement; - the drawing up of the Charter of Fundamental Rights in good time so as to be considered by the European Council before the end of the year, and to make possible its joint promulgation by the institutions; - in the field of the common foreign and security and defence policy and in that of crisis prevention, the European Council at Cologne and Helsinki gave the decisive impetus for the establishment of structures and instruments making it possible to elaborate both the headline goal and the military capability target needed to achieve the full tasks of Petersburg tasks. In the same context, an action plan for the strengthening of non-military crisis management instruments was also adopted; - the role of its Secretary-General/High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security policy in support of those efforts, and in the improved coordination of the Community's actions throughout the world; - the Council has also tackled the question of improvements in its own functioning, and has taken an initial decision on a reduction in the number of Council formations; - the adoption of a Statute for Members of the European Parliament and a satisfactory solution as regards parliamentary assistants; - the adoption of provisions on the rights of access to documents from the institutions; - the enlargement process. The European Conference should be convened in 2000 to discuss subjects of common interest for the Union and the applicant countries; - employment, economic reform and social cohesion as part of a knowledge-based economy; - the achievement of an information society for all, of a European research and innovation, and a favourable climate for the creation and development of innovative businesses (particularly small and medium-sized enterprises); - environmental considerations and consumer protection, particularly with regard to public health and food safety; - transport safety; - implementing the new provisions relating to the outermost regions; - the establishment of the European area of freedom, security and justice; - cooperation with developing countries; - Euro-Mediterranean area; - support for the Middle East peace process; - Southern-Eastern Europe. The European Council should adopt a common strategy for the Western Balkans in order to define clearly the framework and objectives of the Union, and to offer a reference point for the States concerned; - relations with Ukraine and Russia and the newly independent states, particularly those of central Asia will be continued to be assisted through the TACIS programme and through the Partnership and Cooperation Agreements currently being ratified with the majority of them; - relations with Asia, Australia, New Zealand, Latin America and the Caribbean and transatlantic relations. Finally, multilateral trade negotiations should be relaunched, drawing lessons from the Seattle Conference and ensuring the resumption of talks on solid foundations, based on a wide global agenda.

Resolution on the Commission's annual legislative programme for 2000

2000/2515(RSP) - 09/02/2000 - For information

PURPOSE: Communication from the Commission outlining its work programme for 2000. CONTENT: In its Communication on strategic objectives between 2000 and 2005 (see procedure RSP2000/2514), the Commission has identified four central issues which will transform our political project over the life of this Commission and far beyond, namely: - promoting new forms of European governance, - a stable Europe with a stronger voice in the world, - a new economic and social agenda, - a higher quality of life for all. The Work Programme for 2000 identifies the first steps which will be taken over the months ahead to transform the strategic objectives for the next 5 years into reality. It is accompanied by an indicative list setting out the legislative and policy initiatives currently foreseen for this year. As in previous years, this Work Programme focuses on new legislative and policy proposals. It falls into four sections: - Europe, its neighbours and the World; - The economic and social agenda; - Working for the citizen; and - Reform and Reshaping the way Europe works. 1) Europe, its neighbours and the world: - in the context of foreign and security policy, the Union must be active on the regional and the world stage if it is to contribute to stabilising our continent and to securing strategic European objectives. The decision taken at the Helsinki European Council to develop the common European Security and Defence Policy requires increased coherence of Community and CFSP action. Attention will focus on developing a non-military crisis management capability and a proposal will be made to create a Rapid Reaction Facility. The Commission will seek greater coherence in its human rights and democratisation activity by setting out a new human rights strategy. In preparation for enlargement of the Union, distinctive strategic partnerships will be developed with neighbouring countries and regions. In particular, the Commission will pursue its strategy for stabilisation and association in the Balkans and, with the Stability Pact, seek to strengthen and focus the international effort to assist the countries of this Region. The Partnership and Cooperation Agreements and the Common Strategies provide a basis for developing relations with Russia and the Ukraine. Closer cooperation will also be sought with the countries of the Caucasus. A conference to be held in 2000 between the EU and Mediterranean countries should reinforce and reinvigorate the Barcelona Process developing, over time, partnerships based on the rule of law and sustainable development. This will allow Europe to strengthen its contribution to the Middle East Peace Process, and through the revitalised Euro-Mediterranean partnership, the Union will also seek to give fuller expression to its historical and political ties with the Magreb countries. With regard to the US, an effort will be made to reduce and eliminate as far as possible the disputes in trans-Atlantictrade and to build on a broad basis of shared values and common interests to forge a true partnership so as to achieve jointly our economic, political and security objectives around the

world. In Asia, the Union will contribute to stability and security and support economic reforms. The Commission will try to deepen the relations with Latin America and to negotiate association agreements with Mercosur and Chile. To improve the effectiveness of the Union's voice around the globe, its external services will be reorganised. In the field of trade relations, the main objectives remain seeking further trade liberalisation as a stimulus to growth and development, strengthening the rules-based trading system so as to better harness the challenge of globalisation, and addressing the specific issues of developing countries. Accession negotiations with 6 further countries open in February 2000 and will proceed in step with the state of preparation of the candidates. For Turkey, the Commission will implement a pre-accession strategy, including an accession partership. 2000 will also see enhanced financial support for the candidate countries through Phare, ISPA and SAPARD. The Commission will also present its communication strategy to ensure a broad understanding and acceptance of enlargement both within the Member States and in the candidate countries. 2) Economic and social agenda: The key objective is to develop a long-term strategy to build a competitive, innovative and inclusive knowledge-based economy to promote strong and sustained growth achieved through policies aimed at restoring full employment and supporting social cohesion. The Lisbon Summit in March will set much of the economic and social agenda for the next few years. The Commission is to propose an Action Plan on future priorities to ensure that full use is made of new technologies in education and, in particular, to set out a strategy ensuring that Internet access, multimedia material and suitably trained teachers is a reality in all classrooms by 2002. A Communication on making Europe an area of lifelong learning will be also be presented. In preparation for the introduction of euro coins and noted in 2002, a strengthened information strategy to prepare business and consumers, as well as a proposal for a regulation on combating counterfeiting will be presented. In the social affairs field, a new Social Action Programme will be presented. The Commission will launch the first stage consultation of the social partners on adaptability and modernisation of work organisation and working conditions. The Commission will strengthen cooperation between Member States on the issue of the modernisation and sustainability of social protection systems, including pensions. A Fifth Framework Programme on gender equality will also be published in 2000. Under the heading of economic and social cohesion, the first decisions will be taken on the new generation of economic development programmes co-financed by the Structural Funds and the Second Cohesion Report will be published. The Commission will continue to benchmark progress andencourage the sharing of best practice and peer review in terms of the Single Market. Particular attention will be paid to the public procurement rules and to postal services in 2000. An assessment will be made of whether further adaptation of single market rules may be needed to meet the challenge of electronic commerce. Under the Financial Services Action Plan, priorities will include the development of a framework for securities markets and investment services and to ensure effective safeguards for consumers and investors. Legislative activity will focus on establishing a legal framework for supplementary pensions, amending existing legislation on insurance brokers (insurance intermediaries) and reviewing the Prospectuses Directive with a view to making it easier for companies to raise capital Europe-wide. Other non-legislative initiatives will address retail payments, accounting rules, the adaptation of financial regulation in the light of e-commerce and the possible overhaul of the Investment Services Directive. The Commission will seek further progress in the coordination of tax policy. It will propose Communications on its future strategy on taxation and on the customs union. It will also bring forward amendments to current VAT legislation to adapt it to e-commerce. A new strategy for enterprise and competitiveness will be set out in a Communication on enterprise, together with a new Multi-annual programme on Enterprise and Entrepreneurship. A review of current financing instruments for innovation and venture capital will be completed. In the field of competition and state aids, the following are planned: review of the treatment of horizontal cooperation agreements; guidance to companies on how new rules on vertical agreements will be applied; guidance on different aspects of the merger control rules; an evaluation report regarding the group exemption regulation on car distribution and a regulation renewing the block exemption for liner shipping consortia; block exemption rules on aids for SMEs, training and employment; rules for aid to the cinema and TV sectors and for car manufacturing. In the area of the Information Society, a legislative package covering licensing, universal service, interconnection and access and data protection measures is planned. With regard to agriculture and fisheries, within the EU action will focus on the implementation of the programmes and changes introduced by Agenda 2000. Externally, there is the need to safeguard the European agricultural model within international trade negotiations, to conclude a number of bilateral agreements, and to support the process of enlargement. 3) Working for the citizen: Actions fall under 5 main headings. - Environment: development of a 6th Environmental Action Programme and the integration of environmental considerations in other sectors and Community policies; improvement of the legal framework for genetically modified organisms and the completion of legislation on water and air quality; publication of a White Paper on environmental liability; presentation of strategies for the future treatment of PVC and for the chemical industry. - Food safety, public health and consumer confidence: WhitePaper on food safety; a Communication on a heath strategy for the EU suggesting how effect can be given to health and health-related Treaty provisions; safety aspects of products and services, mis-leading advertising, consumer credit and mortgages, improving cooperation between national administrations and issues of access to utility and other general interest services. - Transport and energy: a strategy document on different energy sources (in particular, security of supply); revision of the TENs guidelines; updating of guidelines on the future development of EU transport policy; setting up of a joint venture to bring about the GALILEO European satellite navigation system project; a framework to create a Single European Airspace; strengthening of safety standards and improvement of training in the maritime sector; a Green Paper on the role of public transport and of private cars in cities; a Communication to propose that a technology strategy for climate change must be adopted. - An area of freedom, security and justice: establishment of a Scoreboard as a mechanism to monitor progress in the measures taken in the creation of the area of freedom, security and justice; procedures related to asylum applications; combating organised crime through enhanced police cooperation, the further development with Member States of a European Charter of Fundamental Rights. - Education, culture, sport and audio-visual: adoption and implementation of programmes against doping in sport and MEDIA Plus; examination of the impact of existing recommendations regarding the protection of minors from harmful audio-visual content; launch of the new Culture and Jeunesse programmes. 4) Reform and reshaping the way in which Europe works: There are three main headings in this chapter: - internal reform of the Commission (White Paper) and improved working methods, as well as a new financial management and audit structure within the Commission; - communication on a new communications strategy and reinforced partnership between the Community and NGOs; - Intergovernmental Conference: the Commission will continue to argue that its agenda must take a broad view of the changes needed to accommodate enlargement.