Basic information

2001/0011(COD) COD - Ordinary legislative procedure (ex-codecision procedure) Regulation	Procedure lapsed or withdrawn
Statute and financing of European political parties **Subject** 8.40.01.02 President, members, mandates, political groups	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
AFCO Constitutional Affairs	SCHLEICHER Ursula (PPE-DE)	24/01/2001

Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
BUDG Budgets	COSTA NEVES Carlos (PPE-DE)	22/03/2001
CONT Budgetary Control	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	22/03/2001
LIBE Citizens' Freedoms and Rights, Justice and Home Affairs	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
JURI Legal Affairs and Internal Market	MARINHO Luís (PSE)	21/03/2001

Council of the European Union

Council configuration	Meetings	Date
General Affairs	2379	2001-10-29

European Commission

Commission DG	Commissioner
Secretariat-General	

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
		COM(2000)0898	Summary

13/02/2001	Legislative proposal published		
28/02/2001	Committee referral announced in Parliament, 1st reading		
03/05/2001	Vote in committee, 1st reading		Summary
03/05/2001	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading	A5-0167/2001	
16/05/2001	Debate in Parliament		
17/05/2001	Decision by Parliament, 1st reading	T5-0271/2001	Summary
21/06/2001	Modified legislative proposal published	COM(2001)0343	Summary
29/10/2001	Debate in Council		Summary

Technical information

Procedure reference	2001/0011(COD)
Procedure type	COD - Ordinary legislative procedure (ex-codecision procedure)
Procedure subtype	Legislation
Legislative instrument	Regulation
Legal basis	EC Treaty (after Amsterdam) EC 308
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure lapsed or withdrawn

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading		A5-0167/2001	03/05/2001	
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading		T5-0271/2001 OJ C 034 07.02.2002, p. 0253-0341 E	17/05/2001	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Legislative proposal	COM(2000)0898 OJ C 154 29.05.2001, p. 0283 E	13/02/2001	Summary
Modified legislative proposal	COM(2001)0343 OJ C 270 25.09.2001, p. 0103 E	21/06/2001	Summary

Additional information

Source	Document	Date
European Commission	EUR-Lex	

Statute and financing of European political parties

2001/0011(COD) - 29/10/2001

The Council examined the proposal for a Regulation on the establishment of temporary arrangements · lasting two years · for the statute and financing of European political parties. Discussions focused on three aspects which have not yet been settled, namely respect for democratic principles and a proposed verification system, the threshold for financing in terms of the number of Member States in which a European party must be established and the prohibition/limitation of certain types of donation. Following the discussion, the Chairman noted that differences of opinion remained and stated that he would enter into bilateral discussions with a view to finding possible solutions.

Statute and financing of European political parties

2001/0011(COD) - 13/02/2001 - Legislative proposal

PURPOSE: to present a proposal for a Council Regulation on the statue and financing of European political parties. CONTENT: Article 191 of the EC Treaty contains no clause recognising the operational and personnel expenditure of political parties. The amendments in the Nice Treaty underline the role and importance of European political parties as factors for integration within the Union. They also underline that financing fom the budget of the Community cannot be used to finance, directly or indirectly, national political parties. However, the European Parliament's political groups give subsidies to the corresponding parties and provide staff charged to their budget, ultimately therefore to the European Parliament's budget. The Court of Auditors considers this to be illegal, in the absence of a legal basis. Since Atricle 191 does not supply an adequate operational legal base, a specific legal base must be added so that the relevant expenditure can be charged to the general budget of the European Communities. Against this background, the most appropriate legal basis for this expenditure would without doubt be Article 308, in conjunction with Article 191. The measure must fully respect the subsidiarity principle; it must not impinge on national systems for financing parties. In particular, it must not have the effect of financing national parties, which would be incompatible with Article 191, or their national or European election campaigns. Subject to fulfilling certain criteria, political parties could be eligible for financing from the Union budget in compliance with Article 191 and at the same time the subsidiarity principle. This financing is not to replace the autonomous financing of European parties which must represent at least 25% of the budget of each party. The distribution between parties eligible for financing is based on objective factors. Within the 75% threshold, each party would receive a flat-rate basic grant plus a second component based on the number of elected representatives in the European Parliament. The two components would account for 15% and 85% of the appropriations respectively.

Statute and financing of European political parties

2001/0011(COD) - 21/06/2001 - Modified legislative proposal

The European Parliament proposed 25 amendments, of which the Commission accepts 16 wholly and 4 in part. A number of these increase transparency of financing from external resources, but without entering into the issue of forbidding financing from certain sources, or more clearly prohibiting financing of national parties. It is accepted that donors and the amounts donated must be declared and that anonymous donations cannot be accepted under any circumstances. Other amendments accepted by the Commission tighten up or clarify control procedures and so improve the text. This includes provisions for legal personality of European political parties. Another series of amendments accepted by the Commission seeks to make clearer the purposes for which financing granted under the Regulation may be used. This indicates expenditure incurred in connection with European political work as defined in Article 191 of the Treaty, directly linked to the objectives set out in the statute. The Commission accepts amendments introducing a reference to the Charter of Fundamental Rights. It had been proposed that an Eminent Persons Committee should deal with disputes relating to respect for the basic democratic conditions set out in Article 1 of the Regulation. Parliament preferred that such disputes be dealt with by the Bureau of the Parliament itself. The Commission can accept this expression of the Parliament's political will.

Statute and financing of European political parties

2001/0011(COD) - 17/05/2001 - Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading

By adopting the report by Mrs Ursula SCHLEICHER (EPP/ED, D), by 349 votes for, 80 votes against and 17 abstentions, the European Parliament accepts the Commission proposal for a statute on the funding of European political parties. (Please refer to the previous document).