Basic information

2001/2002(COS) COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic)	Procedure completed
Protection of young people at work: transition period for the United Kingdom (Directive 94/33/EC). Report **Subject** 4.15.12 Workers protection and rights, labour law 4.15.15 Health and safety at work, occupational medicine 4.40.10 Youth **Geographical area** United Kingdom	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
EMPL Employment and Social Affairs	DOVER Den (PPE-DE)	06/09/2000

Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
CULT Culture, Youth, Education, Media and Sport	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
FEMM Women's Rights and Equal Opportunities	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	

Council of the European Union

European Commission

Commission DG	Commissioner
Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion	

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
20/07/2000	Non-legislative basic document published	COM(2000)0457	Summary
18/01/2001	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
24/01/2001	Vote in committee		Summary
24/01/2001	Committee report tabled for plenary	A5-0021/2001	

13/02/2001	Decision by Parliament	T5-0060/2001	Summary
13/02/2001	End of procedure in Parliament		
01/10/2001	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2001/2002(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	EMPL/5/14293

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A5-0021/2001	24/01/2001	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T5-0060/2001 OJ C 276 01.10.2001, p. 0021-0036	13/02/2001	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Non-legislative basic document	COM(2000)0457	20/07/2000	Summary

Protection of young people at work: transition period for the United Kingdom (Directive 94/33/EC). Report

2001/2002(COS) - 20/07/2000 - Non-legislative basic document

PURPOSE : to present a report on the effects of the transitional period granted to the United Kingdom concerning certain provisions of Council Directive 94/33/EC on the protection of young people at work. CONTENT : Council Directive 94/33/EC on the protection of young people at work was adopted on 22 June 1994 and entered into force 2 years later, providing transition periods to allow certain Member States to refrain from implementing the application of this Directive as it posed a number of problems. In particular, this was the case for the United Kingdom, who benefitted form a transition period of four years to apply some of the more specific measures of the Directive, that is until 22 June 2000. It is was provided that at the end of this period, the Commission would present a report to the Council on the effects of this derogation. This is the objective of the present report. On the basis of the views expressed by the relevant personnel of the principal organisations representing the two sides of industry in the United Kingdom and on the documentation provided either during or after those discussions, the effects of the transition period, as perceived by those organisations differ. Employers favour the transitional period because it increases the employment opportunites for young persons whereas the trade unions are opposed to the transitional period because it perpetuates a risk to young persons' health, education and welfare. According to the CBI (Confederation of British Industry), the protection in the United Kingdom for children and adolescents was both appropriate and adequate and that non-renewal of the transitional period in question would create rigidities and impracticalities in sectors such as broadcasting, retailing, hotel and catering. The CBI also expressed the view that non-renewal would affect the employability of young people and could undermine innovative schemes designed to provide practical skills to disaffect young people. Moreover, certain sectors, such as the postal service, newspaper agents and retailers, would be the most affected. A non-renewal of the transition period would prohibit early starts and would prevent adolescents from performing postal and newspaper

delivery duties. It would also restrict adolescents from working evening time which would have serious economic repercussions. The CBI argues that if there was not sufficient flexibility, young workers would be tempted into the "black economy" which would be more damaging to their health and safety. On the other hand, the TUC (Trades Union Congress) stressed that the transition period should not be extended. They maintain that those concerned find themselves in a transitional phase from full-time education to full-time employment and are not fully integrated into the labour market. Furthermore, the TUC is of the opinion that adolescent workers have yet to reach intellectual or physical maturity and that their personal development could be impaired in the absence of special protection. The TUC were of the opinion that the working hours provisions of the Directive wouldreintroduce a modest level of regulation essential for the protection of young people at work (the use of the word "reintroduce" was due to the fact that the provisions in the Employment of Women, Young Persons and Children Act 1920 which prohibited the employment of young people on night work in industrial undertakings was repealed by the Employment Act 1989). In light of the opinions expressed by all the parties, the Commission considers that the 6 year implementation period was sufficient to allow the United Kingdom to adapt its legislation progressively to all the minimum requirements laid down at Community level in the Council Directive on the protection of young people at work. As the protection of the safety and health of young peeple is at issue, full implementation and effective application of its provisions in all fifteen Member States must be an over-riding responsibility for each of them. The Directive contains sufficient possibilities for derogation which could provide the necessary flexibility. Consequently, as the deadline for implementing the provision relating to the maximum weekly working time expired on 22 June 2000, the UK must ensure the full implementation of the provisions of Council Directive 94/33/EC

Protection of young people at work: transition period for the United Kingdom (Directive 94/33/EC). Report

2001/2002(COS) - 13/02/2001 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament endorsed, without debate, the resolution by Mr Den DOVER (EPP/ED, UK) supporting the view that the UK falls into line with a 1994 directive governing the working hours of adolescents and young people. (Please refer to the previous document).