Basic information

2001/2021(INI) INI - Own-initiative procedure	Procedure completed
The legal personality of the European Union **Subject** 8 State and evolution of the Union	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
AFCO Constitutional Affairs	CARNERO GONZÁLEZ Carlos (PSE)	13/02/2001

Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
AFET Foreign Affairs, Human Rights, Common Security, Defense	LASCHET Armin (PPE-DE)	20/06/2001
JURI Legal Affairs and Internal Market	PALACIO VALLELERSUNDI Ana (PPE-DE)	11/04/2001

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
15/03/2001	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
20/11/2001	Vote in committee		Summary
20/11/2001	Committee report tabled for plenary	A5-0409/2001	
13/03/2002	Debate in Parliament		
14/03/2002	Decision by Parliament	T5-0126/2002	Summary
14/03/2002	End of procedure in Parliament		
27/02/2003	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2001/2021(INI)
Procedure type	INI - Own-initiative procedure
Procedure subtype	Initiative

Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 55
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	AFCO/5/14559

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A5-0409/2001	20/11/2001	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T5-0126/2002 OJ C 047 27.02.2003, p. 0420-0594 E	14/03/2002	Summary

The legal personality of the European Union

2001/2021(INI) - 14/03/2002 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament adopted its own-initiative report drafted by Carlos CARNERO GONZALEZ (PES, Spain) on the legal personality of the European Union. (Please refer to the document dated 20/11/01). The EU's lack of legal personality creates a legal vacuum in so far as neither the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, even if it were to take the form of an instrument under Community law, nor any other instrument of international public law designed to protect the rights of the individual and to which Member States have subscribed, are enforceable vis-a-vis the Union. It is essential to stop the dismemberment of the institutional system and to establish a simple structure by combining the existing Communities and pillars into a single Union, which alone owuld have legal personality. The alternative of giving the Union legal personality alongside the legal personalities of the Communities would not provide the necessary clarity and transparency as the terms "Union" and "Communities" would have to be maintained in parallel within a single unified Treaty. Giving the EU legal personality also, inter alia, improves the Union's image and its capacity to take action by facilitating the Union's political and contractual activities at bilateral and multilateral level on the international stage, and its presence in international organisations, even if different procedures apply internally. It is an essential step towards increasing the coherence, visibility and efficiency of its external action.