Basic information

2001/2052(COS) COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic)	Procedure completed
Services: internal market strategy **Subject** 2.40 Free movement of services, freedom to provide	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
JURI Legal Affairs and Internal Market	BERGER Maria (PSE)	27/02/2001

Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
ECON Economic and Monetary Affairs	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
ITRE Industry, External Trade, Research, Energy	GRÖNFELDT BERGMAN Lisbeth (PPE-DE)	21/03/2001

Council of the European Union

Council configuration	Meetings	Date
Competitiveness (Internal Market, Industry, Research and Space)	2451	2002-09-30

European Commission

Commission DG	Commissioner
Financial Stability, Financial Services and Capital Markets Union	

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
29/12/2000	Non-legislative basic document published	COM(2000)0888	Summary
15/03/2001	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
18/09/2001	Vote in committee		Summary
18/09/2001	Committee report tabled for plenary	A5-0310/2001	
03/10/2001	Debate in Parliament		

04/10/2001	Decision by Parliament	T5-0511/2001	Summary
04/10/2001	End of procedure in Parliament		
11/04/2002	Final act published in Official Journal		
30/09/2002	Debate in Council		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2001/2052(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	JURI/5/14552

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A5-0310/2001	18/09/2001	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T5-0511/2001 OJ C 087 11.04.2002, p. 0159-0239 E	04/10/2001	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Non-legislative basic document	COM(2000)0888	29/12/2000	Summary
Document attached to the procedure	COM(2002)0441	30/07/2002	Summary

Other institutions and bodies

Institution/body	Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
CofR	Committee of the Regions: opinion	CDR0134/2001 OJ C 357 14.12.2001, p. 0065	13/06/2001	
EESC	Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report	CES1472/2001 OJ C 048 21.02.2002, p. 0017	28/11/2001	

Services: internal market strategy

2001/2052(COS) - 04/10/2001 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament adopted the resolution by Mrs Maria BERGER (PES, A). The resolution believes that the Commission should, as far as possible, make greater use of the mutual recognition of national rules and of the country of origin principle. This will allow service provders and, in particular, small and medium-sized undertakings, to offer their services all over the EU more easily and on a more cost-effective basis. The harmonisation of the national rules, on the other hand, should be limited to what is strictly necessary to ensure the free movement of services and the freedom of establishment. (Please refer to the previous text).

Services: internal market strategy

2001/2052(COS) - 30/07/2002

This document consists of the report from the Commission on the state of the internal market for services presented under the first stage of the Internal Market Strategy for Services. The report states that a decade after the envisaged completion of the Internal Market, there is a huge gap between the vision of an integrated EU economy and the reality as experienced by European citizens and European service providers. The complexity and severity of legal barriers, which have replaced physical and technical ones for a large variety of services, is far more wide-ranging than was expected when the new Strategy for Services was launched. The nature and scope of the problems to be addressed require a major effort and a clear political commitment by all European institutions and the Member States to give high priority both to the removal of existing barriers and to the avoidance of new ones, while taking care to maintain a high level of protection of objectives of general interest. Candidate countries should as far as possible be involved in this process. This report is intended to present the difficulties affecting the provision of services between Member States as perceived by interested parties according to the consultations carried out by the Commission and Member States, or which arise from complaints, written and oral Parliamentary questions, petitions or studies and surveys. These consultations, accompanied by specific studies, will be continued in order to obtain further information, in particular on the situation of consumers in the Internal Market for services. This report will serve as the basis of work for actions to be launched as a second stage of the Services Strategy in 2003 following discussions with the European Parliament, Member States and interested parties. To achieve these objectives the Commission will, as outlined as part of the second stage of the Internal Market Strategy for Services, propose the necessary legislative actions, the scope and content of which require further analysis. In this respect a careful balance will have to be found between the need to avoid too detailed and wide-ranging regulation at the EU level and the need to protect the general interest objectives concerned. This requires more detailed analysis of areas for additional harmonisation that will be carried out in close co-operation with the European Parliament, Member States and other stakeholders. Particular attention will be given to barriers directly affecting the freedom to receive services by European citizens. In this context there will be close examination of demand-side issues, particularly the situation of consumers in the Internal Market for services. Work in progress aiming to ensure a high level of consumer protection will serve to reinforce the conditions necessary for consumer confidence in cross-border transactions. Lastly, to address non-regulatory barriers, the Commission will, as outlined in the Strategy, propose appropriate measures of a non-legislative nature. In this respect, the Commission will in the first instance tackle the need for information and assistance for citizens and companies wanting to use or provide cross-border services.

Services: internal market strategy

2001/2052(COS) - 29/12/2000 - Non-legislative basic document

PURPOSE: to present a Commission Communication on an Internal Market Strategy for Services. CONTENT: The Commission seeks to allow services to move across national borders as easy as within a Member State. This Communication sets out a two step approach to achieving this objective. First, within the next 12 months, the Commission will accelerate a number of initiatives in specific problem areas, whilst, in parallel, rigorously analysing the persistent barriers to free movement of services across national frontiers. It will encourage the Council and the Parliament to come to agreement early in 2001 on initiatives already scheduled. Second, in 2002, the Commission will bring forward a further package of initiatives, setting a precise timetable for Member States to dismantle any specific barriers identified from the analyses carried out in the previous twelve months. This package will also comprise of non-legislative supporting measures, and specific or horizontal harmonisation instruments, together with additional legislative measures to dismantle remaining barriers and prevent the emergence of new ones, whilst ensuring a high level of protection of public interest objectives is maintained. The Strategy for Services seeks to tackle the barriers by building on five basic principles: it should be comprehensive; it should make cross-border activities as easy as acting within a Member State; it should ensure business and consumers secure benefit from the new opportunities open to them; it should keep pace with change and finally, it should be coherent with other policies. Against this background, this Communication sets out a two stage strategy: Stage 1 - Actions for 2001: first, within the next 12 months, the Commission will launch a first wave of initiatives of both a legislative and non-legislative nature targeted at particular problem areas. Second, the Commission will also review the existing directives that relate to the free movement of services. Third, a number of non-legislative flanking measures will be brought forward. Fourth, the Council and the European Parliament are called upon to agree a number of major Internal Market initiatives that impact on services. The Commission needs to pave the way for a horizontal approach to free movement of services with a view to its implementation in 2002. For the first time since 1962, the Commission will undertake an all-embracing and systematic analysis of the persistent barriers to free movement of services and their spill-over effects across economic sectors. Stage 2 - Actions for 2002: 2001 is a year for action and analyis. the following year will be a further package of initiatives on the basis of this analysis. These initiatives will take three basic forms: actions to tackle barriers which can be moved by the direct application of the Treaty; actions of a non-legislative nature; and, thirdly, actions that make use of targeted harmonisation to remove barriers. In conclusion, the Commission would welcome comments from interested parties by 1 June 2001.