Basic information

2001/2058(COS) COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic)	Procedure completed
Cohesion Fund. Annual report 1999 **Subject** 4.70.02 Cohesion policy, Cohesion Fund (CF)	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
RETT Regional Policy, Transport and Tourism	MARQUES Sérgio (PPE-DE)	24/01/2001

Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
BUDG Budgets	PITTELLA Gianni (PSE)	27/02/2001
ITRE Industry, External Trade, Research, Energy	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	

Council of the European Union

European Commission

Commission DG	Commissioner
Regional and Urban Policy	

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
11/01/2001	Non-legislative basic document published	COM(2000)0822	Summary
15/03/2001	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
20/06/2001	Vote in committee		Summary
20/06/2001	Committee report tabled for plenary	A5-0248/2001	
19/09/2001	Debate in Parliament		
20/09/2001	Decision by Parliament	T5-0473/2001	Summary
20/09/2001	End of procedure in Parliament		
28/03/2002	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2001/2058(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	RETT/5/14551

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A5-0248/2001	20/06/2001	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T5-0473/2001 OJ C 077 28.03.2002, p. 0021-0115 E	20/09/2001	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Non-legislative basic document	COM(2000)0822	11/01/2001	Summary

Other institutions and bodies

Institution/body	Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
EESC	Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report	CES0928/2001 OJ C 260 17.09.2001, p. 0051	11/07/2001	
CofR	Committee of the Regions: opinion	CDR0183/2001 OJ C 107 03.05.2002, p. 0056	15/11/2001	

Cohesion Fund. Annual report 1999

2001/2058(COS) - 11/01/2001 - Non-legislative basic document

PURPOSE: to present the Annual Report of the Commission on the Cohesion Fund 1999. CONTENT: During the period 1993-1999, the Cohesion Fund enabled the four beneficiary countries (Spain, Greece, Ireland and Portugal) to sustain a substantial level of public investment in the areas of the environment and transport, while complying with the goals of reducing expected budget deficit through the convergence programmes drawn up in preparation for economic and monetary union. With regard to budgetary compliance, two goals were achieved at the end of the period 1993-1999: - compliance with the aims of allocating financial resources among countries (in accordance with the percentage ranges specified in the Regulation); - balance between the two areas of assistance (transport and the environment). With regard to the environment, the Coheison Fund committed a total of MEUR 1523.5 to transport projects. Total assistance committed since 1993 to transport TENs projects by the Cohesion Fund and its predecessor, the financial instrument, amounts to MEUR 8325.7. The European Parliament had hoped that the Cohesion Fund would be able to provide greater assistance to rail transport. This was achieved in 1999, when investment in rail grew substantially in Greece, Spain and, to a lesser degree, Portugal. With regard to the environment, the Commission tightened the environment protection requirements under the two Directives which affect Cohesion

projets: Directive 85/337/EEC on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projets on the environment (the 'EIA' Directive) and Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (the 'Habitats' Directive). Following the report made by the Parliament when it was considering the previous report, investment in the area of solid waste was stepped up in 1999 (Greece and particularly Portugal). With regard to information and publicity, in addition to meetings between the Member States and the Commission, a short guide was drawn up to help the Member States cope with the new Cohesion Fund Regulation. With regard to evaluation, so far 71 projets have been evaluated, 40 in the transport sector and 31 in the environmental field. With regard to sound financial management, no case of fraud was discovered and reported by the member States to the Commission's anti-fraud unit (UCLAF). Finally, the report also contains a detailed sectoral breakdown of Cohesion Fund investment in the four beneficiary Member States.

Cohesion Fund. Annual report 1999

2001/2058(COS) - 20/09/2001 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament believes that, overall, the Cohesion Fund has been effective over the period 1993-1999, and that its creation by the Masstricht Treaty has been fully justified as a fundamental support instrument for the countries with the greatest structural problems. The Parliament emphasises the political and economic importance of diminishing economic disparities between the current Member States and their regions, even after enlargement, since they may even worsen as a result of the the impact and dynamics of enlargement. The House considers that the forthcoming enlargement is a huge challenge for solidarity in the European Union and it reminds the Commission of the crucial importance of efficient preparations for the forthcoming enlargement. It considers that the Structural Instrument for Pre-Accession (ISPA) is an excellent tool for preparing the administration at all levels for the requirements of enlargement in the structural policy field. The Parliament confirms the importance of observing the additionality principle as a key principle in the implementation of the Structural Funds. With regard to the monitoring, evaluation and control, the Commission is called upon to devote more resources to on-the-spot checks in order to detect weaknesses in management systems. The Parliament also calls on the Commission to apply the utmost rigour when assessing the environmental impact of projects financed by means of the Cohesion Fund.